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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16TH, 2014

On the road again with 82-year-old Laurie
Page 6

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See Page 14 for details of our weekly competition...

A special children's Christmas competition
Page 10

Brynteg's magnificent seven!

Seven Brynteg students competed at the recent Surf lifesaving World Championships. Left to right, Lewis Crompton, Rebecca Murray, Keland Phinnemore, Leah Harris, Alex Fox, Ellie Morrison and Craig Lewis.

SEE A FULL REPORT ON HOW THEY GOT ON IN PAGE 7 OF THE GEM!

'LEACHED MONEY AWAY...'

Local benefit fraudster hopes to pay back £21,000

CARDIFF CROWN COURT REPORT
by AJ SICLUNA

A BENEFIT fraudster who unlawfully received more than £21,000 has been jailed for 27 months, suspended for two years at Cardiff Crown Court.

The behaviour of 49-year-old Gary O'Connell had corroded the trust of those who pay their taxes, said Judge Tom Crowther QC.

O'Connell, of Pant Hirgoed, Pencoed, a man with no previous convictions, had pleaded guilty to failing to notify a change of circumstances.

Prosecutor Meirion Davies said that in June 2003, O'Connell was awarded bereavement benefit.

From July 2008, it was discovered that he was not living alone, but with a woman and had been overpaid £21,533.

In January, he was interviewed by the authorities and said that when his wife died, he became alcoholic.

He agreed he was sharing his house with a woman who became his carer when he became an alcoholic and she handled his financial affairs.

The couple, he said, had a joint bank account and he agreed he had failed to notify a change of circumstances when there was an annual review. Mr Davies said his sole asset was his house.

His counsel, Owen Williams, said: "He realises the court's sentencing powers and that he could lose his liberty.

Mr Williams said although the amount involved was high, he invited the court to pass a suspended sentence.

"The prospects of repayment are good, he has combated his alcoholism and is motivated to find work.

"Following the death of his wife, his life was in tatters. He accepts full reponsibility for his wrongdoing. At the age of 49, he has lost his good character".

The judge pointed out that he deserved credit for his guilty plea, and the claim was not fraudulent from the outset.

"But you have deliberately and dishonestly leached money away and corroded the trust of those who legally pay their taxes."

He was also ordered to carry out 240 hours unpaid work.

WPD SPENDS £2.5 MILLION IN NOTTAGE

WORK has started on a £2.5 million electricity maintenance project for Western Power Distribution (WPD) in Nottage, Porthcawl.

A WPD spokesperson said: "The scheme is designed to reinforce and replace a primary substation that supplies more than 8,000 customers in the area. It will also improve supply reliability".

The work is due to be completed in March 2015.

Nine residents will also benefit from the removal of high voltage overhead power lines and associated cables which currently run at the back of their homes. These will now be diverted into a nearby field.

WPD projects engineer, Steve Taylor explained: "We're using the latest technology to upgrade our substation at Nottage and our investment is also designed to accommodate any increased demands likely to be placed on the network in the future."

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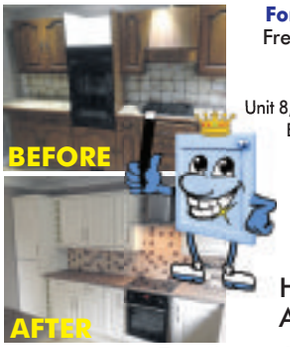

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BCBC flying the flag – to outlaw domestic abuse

THE Bridgend County Borough Council has extended its support for action against domestic abuse by joining the White Ribbon Campaign.

It has agreed to fly the White Ribbon flag above the Civic Offices annually on White Ribbon Day, which this year falls on November 25.

In 2013, council leader Mel Nott and chief executive Darren Mepham signed 'pledge sheets' never to condone, commit or remain silent about violence and abuse, which formed part of a display in the Civic Offices and at other locations in the county borough, including Hartshorn House, Maesteg and Pyle Life Centre.

The council has now become one of 11 local authorities in Wales to be given corporate supporter status by the Welsh Government's Natural Resources Minister, Carl Sargeant AM.

Coun Nott said: "We at Bridgend County Borough Council are very proud to have been given White Ribbon corporate supporter status, which reflects all of the hard work that our officers, councillors and partner organisations have put in. However, let's be clear – there is still plenty to do. There is no place for domestic abuse, sexual violence or violence against women in Bridgend county borough. Along with our partners in South Wales Police, and through our own intervention programmes, we will continue working tirelessly to support victims and make sure that perpetrators are brought to justice."

Coun Marlene Thomas, BCBC's domestic abuse champion, added: "All domestic abuse is a disgrace, and we, in conjunction with other agencies, are doing our best to highlight problems and, hopefully, offer support to those that are in need."

Domestic abuse statistics show that on average, two women in Wales and England are killed by a partner every week. Locally, the Morfa ward has the highest rate of reported domestic abuse per 1,000 of the population.

BRIDGEND COLLEGE REVAMPS FORMER STUDENT'S GARDEN

BRIDGEND College's full and part time Level 2 diploma horticulture students recently revamped an elderly former horticulture student's garden, as part of their contribution to the wider community.

They planned to improve the access to the lady's garden all year round, helping to maintain her mobility and to improve health and safety in the area.

A college spokeswoman said : "the College's Level 3 work-based horticulture apprentices visited the garden initially and formulated the programme of work that was required. They measured the area and calculated the volume of materials that were required; these figures were then passed to the L2 students to use in their lessons to ensure continuous learning from this project.

"Initially, a large area of turf was removed to reduce maintenance requirements - this was disposed of sustainably by a local farmer. Plants which were blocking a path were removed and a weed-proof membrane was put down before eight tonnes of gravel was moved to landscape the area.

"This removed changes in level to improve access so that the former student could carry on gardening into her 80s. The horticulture students thoroughly enjoyed the 'real experience' of landscaping a garden."

Why Karen is planning a spook-tacular evening

KAREN THOMAS from Bettws is inviting local people to a Halloween party on October 31, to raise money for Diabetes UK, a cause close to her heart as her daughter, Samantha-Jade (now 18) was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at the age of nine.

The event will take place at Aberkenfig's Conservative Club on Bridgend Road, at 7pm. People coming along are encouraged to find their "most fearsome fancy dress costumes" to celebrate Halloween, or they can give a £2 donation to charity, if they choose not to dress up.

The ghoulish guests will enjoy a performance by Bridgend band Mojomatic, followed by a disco and the chance to win some great prizes.

Karen Thomas said: "I really hope lots of people come along to support this event, it really is going to be a great night for a really important cause.

"My daughter has Type 1 diabetes and there have been many hard times over the years.

"I didn't know how much was involved in caring for someone with diabetes or how serious a condition it is until my daughter was diagnosed and it has had a major impact on all of our lives.

"This has been made easier through the support that we have had from Diabetes UK and especially from my son, Daniel, who has been a rock to me and Samantha-Jade during some very difficult times."

Tickets cost £5 and can be purchased at the venue or by emailing l.thomas@sky.com. For more information on diabetes or the work of Diabetes UK Cymru please call 029 2066 8276 or email wales@diabetes.org.uk.

Diabetes UK Cymru's National Director, Dai Williams, said: "Diabetes is a serious condition and if it is managed correctly people with diabetes can live healthy, happy lives.

"Karen and her family are really helping to make a difference to everyone who has been affected by diabetes in Wales.

"I hope everyone who goes along has a scarily good night!"

Carers' rights are in focus at local event

A SPECIAL event will be held in Bridgend next month to promote the rights of unpaid carers and highlight some of the support that is available to them.

The Mayor of Bridgend county borough, Cou Gary Thomas, and local DJ Lee Jukes are both backing Carers' Rights Day, which will be held at Bridgend Carers Centre, Park Street, on Wednesday, November 26.

The event is aimed at promoting carers' rights to information, support, carers' assessments, legal advice and welfare benefits, including a carer's right to 'a life of their own.'

Representatives from BCBC's Social Services department, Howells Solicitors and benefits advisors will be on hand, alongside charities, Parkinsons UK, Hafal, Crossroads Care, Alzheimers Society, Y Bont, Bridgend Young Carers Community Voice Project, Age Connect, Macmillan, the Stroke Association and Action for Children.

The 2011 census showed that there are approximately 18,000 carers in Bridgend County Borough, meaning that over 13 per cent of the local population provide an unpaid caring role to a relative, partner, friend or neighbour who has an illness, disability, frailty or addiction.

For more information, call Bridgend Carers Centre on 01656 658 479.

Whose opinion counts most?

IT'S difficult to find evidence of a time – anywhere in the world – where the views of an organisation representing 7,000 experts were pitted against the second hand opinions of some people who used to live with a country's leader.

Yet that's exactly what recently happened in Wales. Readers of this newspaper may be aware that the British Medical Association – which speaks for doctors across Wales – recently warned Labour's Welsh NHS is facing "imminent meltdown" and requires an independent inquiry. A warning you would think, that the First Minister should treat extremely seriously.

The response will surely be remembered for some time to come. Responding to me, in the Assembly, Mr Jones told us all about his former flatmates in Cardiff, who have now entered the world of medicine.

"I spoke to a few of them over the weekend," he said, and "not one of them agreed" with the BMA.

So, when encountering a problem of extreme importance to frontline services, it seems we can count on Labour's Welsh leader to ring round his old college chums and formulate an opinion.

I was – and remain – bemused. Flatmates aside, a sufficient response to the BMA's concerns remains glaringly absent.

When an organisation of this magnitude calls for action, it should be forthcoming. I implore Labour's leader to change his approach and put patients first.

Andrew RT Davies AM, Welsh Conservative Leader.

Supermarkets pass test

LOCAL supermarkets have "responded well" to a Trading Standards operation, which investigated the extent to which youngsters are able to purchase alcohol via home delivery services.

Elsewhere in the UK, there have been reports of a worrying trend in children successfully purchasing alcohol and other age restricted goods after placing orders online. To test this practice locally, a new approach to underage sales enforcement was piloted in an operation carried out by Bridgend County Borough Council's Trading Standards team and South Wales Police.

During the exercise, web orders for alcoholic drinks were placed with three local supermarkets for delivery to a local address. With Trading Standards officers on hand to witness any transactions taking place, all three delivery drivers requested identification from the volunteers and refused to hand over the goods to the 15-year-old volunteers.

Coun David Sage, BCBC's Deputy Leader said: "We are pleased that the operation has shown a strict level of compliance from these local businesses. Protection of children from the harms of age restricted products is a priority for our Trading Standards service, and this is an operation we are likely to conduct again. I very much hope to see similar compliance in future."

Inspector Steve Jennings said: "South Wales Police are pleased with the pass rate from this particular operation and we will continue to work with Trading Standards, and the supermarkets, to ensure that under-18s do not have access to alcohol in this way."

To report the sale of alcohol or any age restricted product to minors, contact Trading Standards via the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 03454 04 05 06 or by emailing tradingstandards@bridgend.gov.uk. Complaints can be made anonymously.

All go at the Townswomen's Guild meeting!

IT has been a busy time at Porthcawl Townswomen's Guild since my last report – all our groups were in action – craft group, literary group, and our walks and luncheon groups.

We very much enjoyed visiting Dyffryn House and garden now it has been taken over by the National Trust. A work in progress but well worth a visit.

On the way home from Dyffryn, we had lunch at The Old Post Inn.

Myself and vice-chair Jean Dorrington were guests at Bridgend Guild's 80th birthday luncheon at Bryngarw House – a great occasion. This month's meeting was our harvest tea with home grown entertainment and names were taken for our Federation Christmas lunch and carol service.

Before that, we have our autumn fayre at the Atlantic Hotel on October 29 at 10 am. It is in aid of the local Alzheimers Society, an excellent cause, so do come and support it.

Our next meeting is on November 12 in All Saints Church Hall at 2pm, when we shall be having a craft demonstration afternoon. Come and learn new skills, for more information call 01656 772157.

DOROTHY THOMAS

You can read your GEM online - just visit ***bridgend-today.co.uk***

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL OCTOBER 23)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
16 Thur	00.07	7.7	12.37	7.7
17 Fri	01.24	7.4	14.05	7.3
18 Sat	02.57	7.2	15.25	7.6
19 Sun	04.06	7.7	16.27	8.1
20 Mon	04.56	8.2	17.17	8.6
21 Tues	05.36	8.7	17.54	9.0
22 Wed	06.16	9.2	18.28	9.4
23 Thur	06.49	9.5	19.04	9.6

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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'Cultural trust' could take over libraries in bid to cut costs

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

THE need for councils to make savings grew more pressing last week, after the Welsh Government confirmed cuts in budgets for next year.

It means that Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) will be looking closely at proposals that could affect the library services.

In May this year, the council announced that it was looking into the creation of a 'Not for Profit Distributing Organisation' that would oversee local arts venues and community arts activities.

Now, BCBC cabinet members have agreed to look at bringing library services under the same umbrella.

A BCBC spokesman said: "Similar 'cultural trusts' are already operating successfully in many parts of England, and such an organisation in Bridgend county borough would have access to external grants that aren't available to councils".

He added that such a trust may find it easier to attract sponsorship and volunteers, and would have the freedom to operate more commercially.

A detailed business case will now be put together and presented to cabinet members later this year after a consultation has been held with staff, trade unions and key stakeholders.

The spokesman said: "Councils have a statutory duty to provide comprehensive and efficient library services in line with the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964, and library services in Bridgend county borough have received a positive rating in the Welsh Government's latest 'Welsh Public Library Standards' report.

"The number of visits made to local libraries has increased, as has the overall satisfaction level of customers, with much of the optimism coming as a result of the partnership that the council has formed with Halo Leisure to bring library and leisure centre services together.

"In the last 18 months, new and improved libraries have been built at the Bridgend Life Centre and Garw Valley Life Centre, with both venues following the successful formula already in place at the Ogmore Valley Life Centre to integrate library and leisure centre services under one roof".

Coun Phil White, BCBC's cabinet member for Communities, said: "The Life Centre model has proven to be very popular with users of all ages, helping us to modernise our libraries and make them more appealing to young people in particular.

"While some councils have been cutting back their library services, we were extremely pleased to be able to open the incredible new Bridgend library thanks to our innovative partnership with Halo Leisure.

"However, the difficulties facing local authorities throughout Wales as a result of reduced funding from central government will result in us having to find new ways of delivering many council services in the lon

Coun White added: "Despite savings of £310,000 in the last three years, the library service is now performing with greater efficiency with more customers benefiting from a modernised library provision that is fit for the 21st century.

"However, further financial savings will be required in the coming years and there is obviously a concern that those savings will affect the service.

"We feel that our library services are currently in a strong position, and we hope to build on the momentum that has been achieved so we feel that the timing is right for us to explore the creation of a 'Not for Profit Distributing Organisation'."

Lib-Dem surgeries

THE Welsh Liberal Democrat Assembly Member for South Wales West, Peter Black, will be holding two advice surgeries next week.

On Friday October 17 he will be in Pencoed Library from 2pm to 3pm, and then at Porthcawl Library from 3.30pm to 4.30pm. No appointment is necessary.

Porthcawl man is jailed for possessing child pornography

CARDIFF CROWN COURT REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

BABIES as young as 12-18 months were depicted on indecent images seized by the police from a man in Porthcawl, Cardiff Crown Court heard.

Dean Rayson (38) of Queen's Avenue, who had no previous convictions, was jailed for 16 months after admitting three charges of possessing indecent pictures of children and one of possessing extreme pornography.

Judge Daniel Williams said: "The aggravating features are the age of some of the children involved. These children were violated."

They had been abused for the sexual gratification of people like Rayson.

In a number of ways, he said, Rayson was seriously disadvantaged.

Prosecutor John Warren said that on April 15, Rayson's home was searched and his computer seized, on which were found indecent images.

He said: "I've made some searches."

Altogether, said Mr Warren, there were 15,748 images. Some were of the most serious, Category A, and some of the least serious, Category C.

There were babies from ages of 12-18 months, and girls aged six to 10.

Rayson said through his counsel, Sue Ferrier, that he had no previous convictions and was a man with considerable difficulties.

She said that he suffered from clinical depression, and struggled on a day-to-day basis.

"He has a social anxiety disorder and an obsessive nature. He finds social engagement very difficult.

"He does not accept he has a specific interest in child pornography. He has communication problems and appears to have very little life at all."

The judge made a Sexual Offences Prevention Order for 10 years and ordered Rayson to register as a sex offender for 10 years.

Police ask: *do you own this bike?*

The Carrera mountain bike recovered by police.

POLICE are trying to trace the owner of a Carrera mountain bike recovered during a recent investigation.

A 39-year-old man from Nantymoel, Bridgend, has been arrested on suspicion of theft and released on police bail, pending further enquiries, until October 27.

PC Daniel Morris said: "We believe the bike in the picture has been stolen and we are keen to find its rightful owner.

"We believe that the bike was stolen from either the Bridgend or Maesteg area".

Anyone who believes the bike is theirs is asked to contact South Wales Police on 101, quoting reference number 14003514779.

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS ON LOCAL BUS TOUR

RESIDENTS in Betws, Sarn, Blackmill, Ynysawdre, Bryncoch, Llangeinor and Evanstown can book a place on a free Mid Cluster learning forum bus tour on Friday October 24 from 9.30am – 2.30pm.

The Welsh Government-funded Communities First programme aims to reduce poverty by improving education and skills, health and employment opportunities.

The bus tour will provide learning opportunities, with a chance to meet other community members and organisations to have your say on training needs.

Starting at Betws Life Centre at 9.30am, the bus tour leads to Evanstown Community Garden to look at a volunteer-led project supported by Bridgend Communities First, ending with a free, hot buffet lunch in Blackmill, arriving back at Betws Life Centre at 2.30pm.

It is an opportunity to have a say on learning opportunities in the Mid Cluster area. Call 01656 815135/815136 or email: communitiesfirst@bridgend.gov.uk for details.

IN BRIEF

Brynmor's talk

ON Sunday, October 19 the Bridgend County Civic Charity and the Mayor of the county borough of Bridgend, hold a grand banquet at the Golden Well Oriental Restaurant for Macmillan Cancer Support – Bridgend County, the Bridgend Carers, and Friends of Bridgend Youth Music.

The guest speaker is Brynmor Williams – former Wales and British Lions rugby star, now a TV presenter and broadcaster.

Tickets £25; book a place by contacting M. Major 01656 664105.

Legion appeal

PORTHCAWL branch of the Royal British Legion needs volunteers for this year's Poppy appeal, October 27 to November 8. Contact 01656 669988 for more information.

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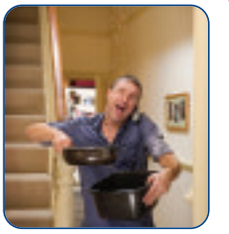

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Soaring performance by choir (and soloists) at annual concert

The Bridgend Male Voice Choir's music team with soloist Jessica Robinson.

I HAD the huge pleasure of attending the annual concert of the award winning Bridgend Male Choir on Friday, October 10 – originally just as an audience member supporting friends; however, on arrival at the church, I was invited to write a review of the concert and what a privilege it is to be recording my thoughts on what was an absolutely wonderful concert.

Fresh from their success in the Male Voice Choir competition at the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod this year, Bridgend Male Choir 'returned home' to give their annual concert to a very appreciative audience in the unique surroundings of St Mary's Roman Catholic Church.

The first thing that struck me was the inordinately cheap price of the tickets – just £5 – and on studying the programme before the concert started, I could see that we were going to get far more than our money's worth.

Perhaps this is the way to attract audiences in these days of economic strife – and to get 'bums on seats'.

Our compere for the evening was Gareth Davies, a member of the bass section of the choir. Gareth explained that the choir's programme for the concert was to include a huge variety of music – from traditional Welsh hymns to musical theatre and opera encompassing four different languages – no mean feat!

And so, on to the music – the musical director of any choir has the unenviable task of choosing the repertoire for a concert, and Rhiannon Williams-Hale chose a programme with music from the very broad spectrum of male voice choir repertoire.

The concert opened with 'A Welsh Treasury' – a selection of Welsh favourites beginning with a beautiful rendition of 'Pan f'or nos yn hir' written by Ryan Davies and arranged by Meirion Davies.

This was followed by 'Yfory', written by Robat Arwyn which showed great control of dynamics, particularly in the quiet, unison passages – and with so many men on stage, this was particularly impressive. A rousing rendition of 'Men of Harlech' ended the first set by the choir.

The first half of the concert also included a very moving tribute to the anniversary of the centenary of the start of World War One in 1914. Particularly poignant was the beautiful 'For the Fallen' by Mike Sammes, which included a cornet solo from Terry Hale, a member of the choir's baritone section, playing the strains of the Last Post.

The first half ended with a nod to the choir's prize winning glory at the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod and they finished with 'Aus der Traube' – raising a 'glass' to the audience before the interval.

A spirited opening to the second half came with a spritely version of 'The Rhythm of Life' by Cy Coleman – a tongue twister for any choir! This was followed by lovely versions of 'What a Wonderful World' and John Samuel's arrangement of 'Bring Him Home' from *Les Miserables* which allowed the choir to show off their ability to sing in a quiet, controlled manner, despite their large numbers.

Versatility was certainly the order of the day and Bridgend Male Choir transported us to the world of opera for their next offering. The dichotomy between bandits and priests was displayed in the 'Bandits' Chorus' from *Ernani* followed by the Chorus of Priests 'Oh Isis and Osiris' from Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. This section was concluded by a stirring version of 'The Virgin of the Angel Host' (La vergine degli Angeli) from Verdi's 'La forza del destino' in which the choir joined forces with soprano soloist Jessica Robinson – absolutely beautiful!

The choir rounded off their contribution to the concert by singing some traditional music in the form of Welsh hymn tunes and a spiritual.

Arwel Hughes' 'Tydi a Roddaist' with its soaring 'amen' never fails to stir the emotions. In stark contrast, this was followed by Geraint Roberts' arrangement of 'Amen', with a fiendish piano part, played with aplomb by Stephanie Bailey. The choir ended with the piece that is most requested by their audiences – Lewis Hartsough's 'Gwahoddiad'.

Bridgend Male Choir can certainly be very proud of themselves for a concert of very high quality, controlled singing. They are very fortunate to have a superb music team with Rhiannon Williams-Hale at the helm, Stephanie Bailey as their sympathetic accompanist, ably supported by Scott Williams on the organ.

The annual concert is an opportunity for the choir to showcase a year's worth of hard work in the rehearsal room; however, BMC also realise that a good music team is something to hold onto and they are, quite rightly, given the opportunity to show off their talents.

Scott gave an accomplished performance of two movements from the 'Suite Gothique' by Leon Boellmann on the organ, and Rhiannon gave a fantastic version of 'A Tribute to Mr Curwen' arranged by the much admired Welsh musician, Bryan Davies.

It would be completely remiss of me not to make special mention of the choir's guest soloist for the evening; the hugely talented soprano, Jessica Robinson. Jessica has just graduated from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama with a first class honours degree and she is continuing her studies at the RWCMD on the opera course.

Jessica is already building a name for herself, and has recently returned from performing in China as part of a Welsh Government scheme, and was a guest of the Harry Ensemble as they toured around New York in 2014. She was also the winner of the Russell Sheppard Scholarship in 2014.

It is clear that Jessica feels completely at home in front of an audience. She opened her programme with the beautiful 'O mio babbino caro' from Puccini's opera, *Gianni Schicchi* followed by the patriotic 'Cymru Fach'.

In the second half, Jessica gave her 'Giuditta' with 'On my lips every kiss is like wine' by Lehar and then showed her 'schizophrenic tendencies' with a brilliant version of 'The Girl from 14G'.

The cherry on the cake was her encore – a gorgeous rendering of 'Can't help lovin' that man' from Jerome Kern's *Showboat*. Jessica is certainly someone to watch out for in the future!

Congratulations to all at BMC for an annual concert of superb quality. I'm already looking forward to the next one!

Ryan Wood
ryanwoodmusic@btinternet.com

Pupils bring the harvest home for local foodbank

COLEG Cymunedol Y Dderwen has made a harvest collection for Bridgend Foodbank.

Here, year-13 head girl (Charlotte Evans) and head boy (Matthew Steddy) are pictured with the school's collection.

All the food, donated by pupils is being delivered to the Bridgend Foodbank ready for distribution to those in need.

Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen's ethos is "Taking Pride" and this extends not only in the work we do within the school but also the work we do within the community," said a spokesman.

Bridgend Quiz League report

AFTER Penybont Nomads won the curtain-raiser to the 2014-15 season, the Muriel Williams Cup a couple of weeks ago, the league itself got under way on Monday, October 6.

Reigning champions Penybont Explorers mad a good start with a 46-38 win against Ty Risha Royals.

Tondu Railway Club also began well, winning at Crown Inn 'A' by 46 to 43. Penybont Nomads had a bad last section of the quiz, scoring only one point from the last five questions, and Mackwworth Arms beat them 46-37.

In the other Division 1 game, Laleston Inn 'A' had a nail-biter against Oldcastle 'A', finally winning 39-38.

In Division 2, there was a big win for Cabo Roche versus Coychurch Wanderers by 52 points to 35.

Oldcastle 'B' saw off Laleston Inn 'B' with a 44-37 win and newcomers Star, Market Street, kept Pheasant Gamekeepers to a score of 41-37, a good debut.

Llangeinor AFC had an away victory of 41-31 at Pyle RFC. The match between Bush Kangaroos and Pheasant Poachers was cancelled as the former were unable to raise a team.

Here are this week's teasers:

1. *The Military* and *The Schoolmaster* were symphonies by which composer?

2. Which Shakespearian play ends with the Battle of Philippi?

3. The Cubs and The White Sox represent which US city in baseball?

4. Which Act of the British Parliament in 1765 imposed direct taxes on newspapers, mortgages an documents in the American colonies agggravating and contributing to the outbreak of the US revolution?

A Rudge

Answers:
1. Hayden.
2. Julius Caesar.
3. Chicago.
4. Stamp Act.

WI hears about Zambia appeal

THE October meeting of Sker WI was held recently when president Nora Williams welcomed members and reported that the bowls team came second in the recent competition.

The speaker will be Ms Deana Owen on Children in Zambia. Friends of Monze is a small charity based in south Wales and offers support to residents of the town in Zambia.

The group was created after Deana retired as a nurse and travelled to Zambia to help residents in Monze in the growing AIDS pandemic.

When not in Zambia, Deana is busy giving talks and fundraising for a new school there.

The Christmas fayre is on November 21 at Trinity Church Hall from 10am-12 noon.

The speaker at the next meeting on November 13 is Mr Stephanas Mastoris on The History of Christmas Cards, at St David's Church Hall, Nottage at 7pm.

ANN VIPOND

Who wants to build what and where?

Mr Andrew Randal – **10 Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend** – Side prune overhanging branches of two Ash, two Elm, two Sycamore and side prune mature Sycamore.

Mr Simon Dawkes – **69 Angelton Green, Penyfai** – 40 per cent crown reduction to Oak tree.

Mr David Cook – **Rear 6, Tywod Vale, Pencoed** – Cut back Oak trees which are overhanging garden.

Valleys To Coast – **Rear, 106 Tudor Estate, Maesteg** – Pollard Oak tree to six metres.

Mrs Lynette Davies – **19 Ffridd Las, Broadlands** – 30 per cent crown reduction of three Elm and one Hawthorn trees.

Mr Christopher Sharratt – **60 Park Street, Bridgend** – Trim back and crown lift Cedar of Lebanon trees.

Mrs Lalley Knight – **New House, Tythegston, Bridgend** – Crown lift Sycamore tree.

Mrs Claire Edmunds – **1 Cavan Row, Castle Street, Maesteg** – First floor extension above kitchen for an additional bedroom with rear-facing balcony.

Valleys To Coast Housing, c/o Paul Sawtell – **Nant Lais, West House Road, Bridgend** – External alterations and improvement works to the elevations.

Dr Bridget Kirsop – **Pyllau House, Coytrahen, Bridgend** – Demolish single storey rear extension and construct new single storey rear extension and timber decking to garden.

Mr Mike Punter – **59B Nolton Street, Bridgend** – Retention of use of rear ground floor area as living accommodation.

Mr Nick Thomas – **8 Clos Santes Fair, Pencoed, Bridgend** – Proposed extension to rear of existing detached garage.

Mr Chris Stephens – **16 Golden Terrace, Maesteg** – Change use of dwelling to two one bedroom flats, single storey rear extension with escape walkway over and metal staircase.

Mr C Casey – **45 Turberville Street, Maesteg** – Form ramped access from front of dwelling to rear.

Ms Carol Morgan – **Flat 1, 14 Blundell Avenue, Porthcawl** – Small storey extension to rear of ground floor flat.

John Matthews – **Laleston Post Office and Store, 27 High Street, Laleston** – Change of use of ground floor from A1 shop to part A1 shop and part A3 cafe.

Mr Terence Davies – **31 Ogwy Street, Nantymoel** – Change of use from shop to residential and change shop front to domestic front.

Mr Andrew Overfield – **29 Woodland Place, North Cornelly** – Extend porch to create front extension to house playroom/bedroom.

Deana's retirement mission: *to build a school in Zambia!*

Deana Owen pictured with youngsters in Monze.

RETIRED Bridgend health visitor Deana Owen thought she would spend her retirement gardening, but after three months volunteering in Monze a small town in Zambia, she decided to build a school there instead!

She explained: "When I went to Monze in 2012, the school was like a dilapidated cow shed, yet over 300 children walked miles to get there to be educated in two shifts. Half of them are HIV orphans.

"These children are keen to learn, curious, friendly and happy, despite having nothing but a ball made out of old plastic bags to play with. How could I resist helping them? I was there and was asked to help – how could I say no?

"My friends in Bridgend had a real ear bashing until it became clear we needed to set up a registered charity - now we have Friends of Monze. Already we have installed a solar water pump which irrigates the garden growing vegetables for the HIV sufferers and to generate income to support a pre-school.

"Next on our list to help people be self supporting, was buying a peanut butter machine, turning peanuts they had grown into nutritious food that can treat malnutrition. We arranged training for people to make solar cookers from waste cardboard, saving trees, and toddlers from getting burnt at open fires.

"But the big project is building the school, compost toilets and sinking a bore hole for water. A kind donation meant that work will begin next month. This is just the start! As well as equipping the school and giving the children a good formal education, money is needed to teach life skills, permaculture gardening, composting and harvesting sustainable seeds.

"My own garden is like a jungle, but I'm concentrating on the dry sandy desert outside Lushomo School. These children will then be nourished and learn life skills to feed their families in the future".

Deana is willing to give talks to any organisation that would like to hear more. Contact 07807660543, or website www.friendsofmonze.org

Local care home worker in line for a top award

CARE home maintenance technician, Nick Mannion, has been shortlisted for a prestigious Wales Care Award.

Nick (35) of Coity, Bridgend, has worked at Ty Enfys in Pentwyn for more than four years. The purpose-built home provides residential and nursing care and dementia care.

A former landscape gardener, he was delighted, if "a little stunned" after being nominated for the Social Care Health and Safety Award, sponsored by Mangar International Ltd, at the Wales Care Awards.

The presentation ceremony will be held at City Hall in Cardiff on Friday, October 24.

NICK MANNION.

Sujjata Singh, general manager at the home, said: "The home has recently undergone a total refurbishment and it is a testimony to Nick's professionalism and knowledge, not only about health and safety, but also the needs of our residents, that the refurbishment was completed without accidents and with minimal disruption to the day-to-day running of the home.

"Nick's hobbies include gardening. He enjoys spending time with the residents and due to his commitment and expertise Ty Enfys has won many awards for our gardens. Nick has been instrumental in forming a gardening club and committee, which includes residents' relatives and volunteers."

Father-of-two Nick, a keen surfer, said: "I was very surprised to be nominated but it's nice to be appreciated. Some of the residents are keen gardeners. It's good to get outside. I am also the general handyman at the home with health and safety always a big responsibility."

Intrepid walkers raised £1,681 for service families

AT 5pm on August 2, Phil Jones, Phil Duckworth, Caroline Higgins and Nicola Halket set off from Cardiff Castle with the aim of walking to Porthcawl.

Nine hours later, the weary four arrived in Porthcawl, after a wonderful effort to raise funds for SSAFA Bridgend. By the time they arrived in John Street, they had changed into World War One dress to complement the rest of the crowd in WWI dress.

They then set about collecting from their friends at the Seagull in West Park. Having emptied the swear box, the total they raised came to £1,681.45. At a presentation night held at the Seagull on October 5, their cheque was presented to Maj.(retd) Dave Davies BEM TD*, branch secretary SSAFA mid Glamorgan.

Maj. Davies thanked everyone for the sterling effort and said that the money would be well used for the benefit of past and present serving men, women and their families in time of need.

If you know of anyone who could benefit from assistance through SSAFA, contact 01656 785435. **DD**

Tractor run gives Macmillan boost

Basil George with Claire Davies and Val Weaver

ON Sunday, October 5, the annual Ogmore Castle Vintage Tractor Run took place to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Around 35 tractors took to the road at 10.30am, travelling from Ogmore Village around the Vale and back to base approximately two-and-a-half hours later.

The tankard this year was presented to James Isaacs from Groesfaen, who had travelled the furthest distance to take part in the run. The organiser, Basil George, thanked everyone who made the effort to attend the run, and presented each participant with a medal.

He also thanked Robert and Angela Williams for the use of the Ogmore Castle field, Paul Hooper for the signwriting, Jeff Webb from the Aberthin Tractor Boys for the catering and BS Supplies for the medals and trophies.

The Vintage Tractor Run raised £470, bringing the running total to £2,865 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Val Weaver and Claire Davies, fundraisers for Macmillan, thanked all those who had donated towards the local cancer support facilities. **BG**

CADET LEADERS ON COURSE TO BE TOP ROWING COACHES

ABOVE: Sea Cadet and Scout leaders take a bow with their trainer.

NINE Sea Cadet and Scout leaders have begun training to become British rowing coaches.

Representing three of the Barry Sea Scout groups, as well as Sea Cadets from both Barry and Porthcawl, they will be training throughout the winter, hoping to be qualified by the start of the boating season next year.

The course has been organised by Barry Youth Watersports and Nigel Vick, the course organiser, said:

"This course brings together the main users of Barry Docks and will mean that there is quality coaching available for youth organisations that want to get out on Barry Docks.

"The Sea Cadet rowing boats are a great way of getting on the water and I am grateful to them for making these available."

For details of Sea Cadets or Scout groups in Barry, contact Nigel Vick on 07812 930001, or email barryywsports@gmail.com

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chapel concert

BETHEL Newydd Chapel, Heol-y-Cyw, will hold a grand concert by Cor Meibion Cwm Garw, on Monday, October 27 at 7pm.

Conductor Mr Bryan Young; pianist, Mrs Margaret Rich; soloists Mr Alan Walters and Mr Bryan Young. Proceeds are in aid of Bethel Newydd Chapel and Christian Aid. Light refreshments will be served.

Free workshop

'PITCHING a project to a publisher' workshop with Mick Felton of Seren Publishers will be held at Bridgend Writers' Circle in Bridgend Rugby Club on Thursday, November 6 (7.15pm). Free entry.

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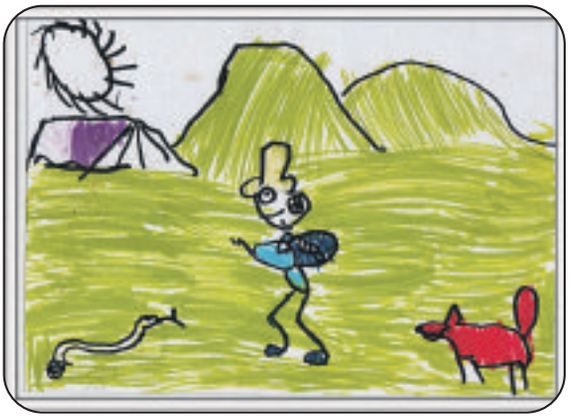
What makes Laurence run?

by CAROLINE SARLL

IN a recent edition of the GEM, Caroline Sarll told the story of the remarkable story of Laurie Brophy of Pencoed. However, when you are as busy as Laurie – even at the age of 82 – it's hard to get through it in one session, so welcome to part two!

Laurence Brophy resting on the Taff Trail.

St David's Day run with the family.



A drawing by Laurie's grand-daughter Paige before his first Marathon des Sables (warning him to stay away from the snakes and hyenas!)

PEOPLE who are real trailblazers can be impetuous – none more so than 82-year-old 'marathon man' Laurie Brophy.

Despite his fascinating and inspiring upbringing, travelling the waters and walkways of the world, on foot, by bike and even canoe – and eschewing the trappings of clothes in an Open Air school in the 1930s , this inveterate and incorrigible groundbreaker could, it would seem, have done with a spell in the Boy Scouts learning how to 'Be Prepared'.

During his recent 55-mile Taff Trail trek, completed in under 24 hours, he somehow omitted to measure his survival blanket.

"It only just covered my shoulders, so I was too cold to sleep and would have ended up with hypothermia. There was no alternative but to keep walking through the night".

Tut, tut, Laurie – but then a lack of planning has never deterred this go-getting gumption-driven grandfather of five.

"When I did the Marathon des Sables for the second time, in 2002, I forgot to eat regularly and ended up having to bow out and was put on a drip – but later the same year I did the Jordan Cup – only about 110 miles – and finished that no problem".

Some might call this lack of forward planning and disregard for the body's basic nutritional needs a tad cavalier and unquestionably foolhardy, but the more Laurie opens up, the clearer it becomes that these lapses are down to a willingness to simply get up and go – an endearing quality, particularly in someone of his advancing years (sorry, Laurie).

After he had completed the Taff Trail some weeks ago, he gave me a run-down of the experience, including the injuries he sustained. "The pain I suffered in the last 20 miles was shin splints, maybe caused by the shoe insert I've been wearing for the last year.

"Unfortunately, there's no hope of getting it checked by a specialist until November – and it will probably have healed by then. My ankle is still swollen – but that will heal eventually as well".

A no-nonsense, dust yourself down approach and a stoicism from which we could all learn. Atta boy, Mr B.

The sheer mileage Laurie has covered during his extraordinary challenges will have stood him in good stead during the recent Welsh walk. He reckons that it amounts to over 1,630 miles since his first London Marathon in 1997, with a further 1,060 covered by bike, not to mention the canoeing trips on top.

When we talk, he drops in the names and dates of gruelling races as if recalling family holidays; "97, '98 and 2001, the London Marathon.... Marathon des Sables, 1999 and 2002, 2009 and 2011, the Atacama Desert...". He completed the first Marathon des Sables with, as he recalls it, surprisingly little bother.

"25 miles each day for six days, carrying everything you need on your back. I think I was the oldest competitor that year at 67. The temperature reaches about 100 degrees and it's so hot and dry that your sweat evaporates immediately, so it doesn't get the chance to cool you down – but I still managed to sprint the last 10k".

When Laurie confesses that he "somehow mislaid" his sunglasses during his first MdS challenge, we're back in laid-back Laurie-land, wondering how he has ever managed to complete any of these unbelievably arduous feats, ones which "push your mind and body to the limit".

The glasses incident could have been pretty dire: "It resulted in me wandering totally off the course, even though I had my compass with me. Everything went all foggy and I had no idea where I was going".

He could, quite clearly, have lost the plot, as he did three years later, due to lack of food. But on this occasion, as with many other episodes in Laurie's life, some serious serendipity saved the day.

Laurie recalls the experience in almost filmic fashion: "Through the mist, I could see the silhouettes of tents in the distance. Everything was in black and white. The sky had become all milky".

Forget TE Lawrence. Enter, surely, the new Laurence of Arabia. Out of this mesmeric mirage, Laurie then heard the sound of singing.

"It turned out to be two blind men – brothers – walking with their wives". Laurie approached them with a pricelessly ironic request: "I can't see very well. Can I join you please?"

They ended up walking to the next camp, all arms linked together. "One of the blind men actually gave me his sunglasses, so I was able to see again".

An exquisite case of the blind leading the sunblinded. You just couldn't make this up.

Following his unsuccessful second MdS attempt in 2002 (after completing his third London Marathon in 2001), Laurie completed the Gobi March ("the windy one"), the first of the Four Deserts Race, in 2003.

This, again, was over six to seven days and involved one non-stop stretch of 50 miles, including night walking.

In this desert, the searing heat caused his head to "swim", when he stopped briefly at midday to check his map, after discovering that the course markers had "mysteriously moved". Lesson learned: "If you are going to pause, it has to be in the shade".

Laurie successfully completed this ordeal and then tackled the Four Deserts Sahara, "billed as the hot one", in 2005.

"The temperature there reached up to 51.5 degrees centigrade, or 122 degrees Fahrenheit. The heat was so intense it was like a cotton-wool blanket, so palpable you felt you wanted to push it away from your face".

Finishing this event garnered Laurie the honour of being the oldest contestant back then to have completed a Four Deserts Challenge, earning him worldwide respect. Despite knowing Laurie for well over a decade, I had no idea about this incredible accolade.

Shouting from the rooftops is not on Laurie's agenda. Hiding his light (and, occasionally his torch – two gave up on him in the Atacama) under a bushel is more his style.

All of these escapades come at a price. There's the toll on Laurie's body, but also the financial outlay, something often overlooked in the widespread press coverage of these endurance challenges.

"It can cost thousands. It's nearly £4,000 to enter the Marathon des Sables, for example. People forget that you have to fly out to these places before you can even start. When I decided to do the Atacama in 2009, I was starting to have real difficulty in raising the money.

"I worked delivering telephone directories and newsletters for the council, going from house to house. It took a long time to save up".

Not deterred by such small fry door-to-door trekking, Laurie conquered the cashflow obstacle – and off he went again. The Four Deserts website acknowledges Laurie as gaining the medal for the 70-79 age group in the 2009 Atacama race.

His recollection is that he was disqualified for "being too slow on the second day", but it would seem the organisers know a medal-worthy trooper when they see one.

"Ah yes," muses Laurie quietly, in his characteristically humble tones: "I expect they gave me something out of sympathy". For Laurie's "sympathy", read rather "awe and admiration".

Many of the blogs on the Four Deserts site and the Y Bont Facebook page pay homage to this veteran competitor: "A legend" says one former pupil – and they are full of respect for the sheer guts he displays, year in, year out.

Sadly, he had to give up in the 2011 Atacama, yet again, "getting the food and water bit all wrong" and lasting "just 110 miles." Just? Self-effacement is Mr B's default position – which is perhaps why he has not received the national recognition he deserves.

Since he began fundraising for Y Bont back in the late 90s, he has raised over a thousand pounds. Y Bont expresses its heartfelt gratitude to Laurie for his ongoing support, particularly vital this year, as it is facing a £50k deficit following funding changes. A spokesperson said: "If we can't make up the deficit, our vital service, helping disabled children and their families, will struggle to continue".

Earlier this year, due to his fundraising efforts and his years of volunteering in Nottage Primary School, Laurie was awarded a Mayor's Citizenship Award, which he accepted with due humility and, again, little fuss.

Laurie returned for a third time to the Atacama in 2012, despite being refused entry due to his age: a mere 80 that year.

"I suppose I wanted to show the organisers I was still capable of tootling about in the desert. I intended climbing the Licancabur volcano, as I'd admired it on the previous two occasions. But, unbelievably, for one of the driest places on earth, they had a freak rainstorm - four cm of rain in five minutes – just before I arrived, resulting in the volcano being half-covered in snow. Not good for trainers, so no volcano".

But there are always plenty of other adventures to occupy him. The Three Welsh Peaks Trial (x 3), Barnardo's Bike Ride (x 3) and Land's End to John O'Groats by bike (2008). He polished the latter off, covering 94 miles a day, in10 days, when many decades younger take 14.

And so to this year, and the Taff Trail. Completing it well under the self-imposed 24-hour target, Laurie nevertheless admits from the outset that he "won't be doing it again".

Despite enjoying stretches of the walk, ambling along canal towpaths and enjoying the dramatic scenery of the Brecon Beacons, Laurie's inability to sleep ("mea culpa", he says) and the non-stop nature of his venture left him feeling pretty drained and perhaps more defeatist than usual.

Yet there were moments of simple pleasure, which render our 100 miles an hour lives utterly ridiculous and lamentable.

Stopping for food breaks on grassy banks and sighting squirrels and other wildlife conjures up an idyllic image of a bygone era, where the pace was slower and life itself could be savoured.

Listening to Laurie talk, it reminded me of that well-known poem by Welsh writer, WH Davies, "What is this life if full of care, We have no time to stand and stare?"

Davies, a well-known vagabond in his day, noted our inability to see "streams full of stars" and "where squirrels hide their nuts in grass". Bizarrely, Laurie then tells me that he met a "traveller" en route and that they had both discussed Davies' *Autobiography Of A Supertramp*. "This chap I met was in his 50s, a bit of a wanderer, who had formerly taught in a private school".

He and his chorkie (Chihuahua/Yorkie cross) joined Laurie as he snacked on his "two boiled eggs, some bread and butter and a banana".

Both seemed to share Davies' unhurried view of life – despite the against-the-clock targets Laurie sets himself.

Later in the day, Laurie also managed to stop off for some "excellent fish and a few chips" in Sammy's Fish Bar in Cefn-Coed-y-Cymmer, just outside Merthyr Tydfil and squeezed in tea and scones at Talybont. "I couldn't walk straight by this point. Yes, I was finding it hard going".

There were no crowds to see him off: "My daughter took me up to Brecon and waved me off"– and none to cheer him at the finish. I ask Laurie what his wife Ruth thinks of his wanderlust.

Does she never think of accompanying him?

"We did do an event together recently, the St David's Day Run in Sophia Gardens. Ruth and I walked it with my young grandson Seth, and my daughter and son-in-law ran. But as for the desert locations, no... she would be bored just hanging around waiting for me to come back to base.

"She tends to go off for little jaunts with her sister. I think it's good that I get out from under her feet. She gets things done".

This is clearly a relationship and arrangement which works for both. Ringing Laurie post-challenge, Ruth chips in warmly in the background, offering help in locating pictures and clarifying details.

Don't they ever go off on holiday together? "Ooh, not much now" says Laurie. "I find holidays a bit dull. I like to be doing things all the time".

Next February, to mark his 83rd birthday, he is planning, for the second time, on attempting Offa's Dyke; he managed half last time.

At 177 miles, this will be one of the longest stretches he has undertaken. It might not be the desert, but there is some challenging terrain en route and this is not an undertaking for the faint-hearted.

"Finding places to get water is one of the hardest things. I'd like to try and do it in a week". Most manage it in a fortnight, so Laurie is pushing the boundaries yet again. So will he then think of hanging up his boots?

"I shouldn't think so. I'd still like to climb that volcano...".

Determined, inspirational and, yes, totally incorrigible (thank goodness). Local legend Laurie Brophy will continue – for many years to come – to take future challenges, quite literally, in his stride.

To sponsor Laurie and raise money for Y Bont, which helps and supports disabled children, visit www.justgiving.com/LaurenceBrophy1 or text TTRA532£5 (or chosen amount) to 7007.

Final reunion visit to the Canal Zone

I ORGANISE 14-day return visits to the Egyptian Canal Zone where I served in the 1950s, along with thousands of other personnel.

I know that many service people who live in your circulation area were stationed there during the troubled times of the 1950s.

Many of our service personnel died and are buried in the cemeteries that we visit: Ismailia, Fayid, Moascar and tel-el-kebir.

I will take photos of any friends or loved one's graves if any of your readers would like me to (complimentary).

Also, if any GEM readers would like to join us on our last group, I still have a few places left and will send full details to any readers who served in the zone, or have friends or relatives buried out there who may be interested in joining our group visit in April/May 2015.

We will be visiting Cairo and staying at a hotel in Ismailia overlooking Lake Timsa and visiting other places in the Canal Zone.

I am limited to 25 places on this reunion visit, due to the fact it is still a military restricted area – spouses/families (must be over 20 years of age) are welcome. This will be our last visit to the Egyptian Canal Zone, due to age and health reasons.

Alf Avison
Middle East Land Forces Association
PO Box 99
Spalding
Lincolnshire
PE11 9NS
Telephone 07814 832441; email: alfavison@talktalk.net

'Play pods' help pupils to get on their bikes

ABOVE: Pupils at Cefn Glas Infants School in Bridgend are learning to ride on balance bikes.

NEW 'play pods' packed full of equipment are helping youngsters at local schools learn how to ride a bike.

At Cefn Glas infants school every Wednesday at the end of the school day, a set of balance bikes is taken out of the new play pod, and parents are invited in to join their children as they develop their co-ordination skills and take steps towards cycling without stabilisers.

Similar play pods have also been delivered to Tondu and Nantyffyllon primary schools, with a fourth one on the way for Bettws this term.

A Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) spokesman said: "It's all part of work being carried out by BCBC's active young people department to give children across the county borough a healthy future that is full of safe and varied opportunities to play.

"Last year, the council undertook an assessment of play in the local area, and worked with its partners to develop a three-year action plan that aims to support every child up to the age of 17 to play freely, safely and healthily and take part in a range of recreational activities in their communities.

"That action plan was submitted to the Welsh Government and, one year on, BCBC cabinet members have been hearing about the work that has been carried out so far to address any gaps in play provision and possible areas for improvement."

Coun Huw David, said: "Our aim is to create a play friendly society in Bridgend county borough, where children have an abundance of opportunities to play, whether it be through a structured activity such as a sports club or a play scheme, or playing freely with their friends.

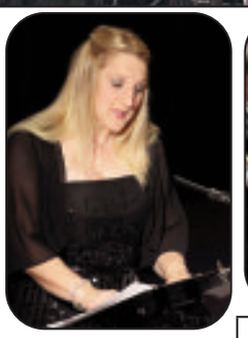
"The new play pods are being put to fantastic use, while there are plenty of new sports and play opportunities at other schools too, including the chance for families to take part in sports and play activities together in Family Active Zones.

"Wales is the first country in the world to show such commitment to putting play on the agenda and developing a play-friendly culture in the public sector, and it will take time to achieve our aims.

"However, the progress report shows that steps are being made in certain areas, and highlights what needs to be done to improve the situation elsewhere."

'Wonderful musical evening' at Porthcawl helps Barnardo's

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS



BARNARDO'S Cymru's Magical Music fifth annual fundraising concert was held at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, in September, where the audience was treated to a full 70-piece orchestra under conductor Mr David Hughes.

Actress Shelley Rhys-Owen of *Pobol y Cwm* fame (left) presented the evening and sang 'Make You Feel My Love' by Bob Dylan.

Music from 17 musicals filled the warm, night air with glorious sounds, thoroughly enjoyed by all.

A total of £5,658.60 was raised which will go towards helping the most vulnerable children and young people in Wales.

Next year's Magical Music concert will be held on Sunday, September 13. **MB**

Brynteg Life-Savers compete at World Championships...

ABOVE: Left to right, Keland Phinnemore, Alex Fox and Craig Lewis, with their bronze medals.

AT the end of September, seven Brynteg Comprehensive sixth form students represented the Pen-y-Bont Surf Life-Saving Club (SLSC) in the inter-club competition of the World Surf Life Saving championships in Montpelier in France.

The Brynteg students taking part were head boy Alex Fox, Keland Phinnemore, Leah Harris and Ellie Morrison of year-13; from year-12 were Craig Lewis, Lewis Crompton and Rebecca Murray.

Keland Phinnemore is a team member of the GB & Northern Ireland squad and performed really well by winning a gold medal for the GB & NI squad in the Serc event (simulated rescue).

In the inter-club competition, he also won a silver medal in the board rescue competition and a bronze medal in a team event.

The Penybont trio of Keland Phinnemore, Alex Fox and Craig Lewis formed part of the four-man team in the surf sprint relay and came away with a bronze medal in the interclub competition.

Brynteg is extremely proud of our swimmers, both in their commitment to training, and the performance levels in competition. **PD**

Tony's in line for care award

PENCOED health worker Tony Doyle, who starting nursing in the Royal Navy, has been nominated for an award for his work in caring for individuals with learning difficulties.

He is managing director of a Neath residential care home that specialises in care services for adults who have learning disabilities and challenging behaviour.

He is among others in line for an annual Wales Care Award, organised by Care Forum Wales at a ceremony in City Hall, Cardiff.

Tony has been nominated for the Leading Practice in Learning Disability and Mental Health Services award, sponsored by Barchester Healthcare.

Dean's new role

THE Principality Building Society has appointed Dean Williams from Bridgend as 'Head of Continuous Improvement', which will look at improving efficiency and effectiveness across the business.

Bridgend Bridge Club

Bridgend Bridge Club, recent results:

Wednesday, October 8: First, Linda Pinnock and Dennis Mottram; second, Tony Ratcliff and Julian Pottage; third, John Beard and Liam Sheridan.

Friday, October 10: Equal first, David and Norma Newman and Bill Turner and John Raymond; third, Dave Read and Jim Hume. Winners on handicap - Sue Hunt and Colin Lewis

Regular club nights take place on Wednesdays and Fridays at Nolton Church Hall at 7pm. We try to start at 7pm so it helps if people arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursdays from 2pm to 5pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there are gentle bridge sessions for the less experienced where assistance is readily available.

The best placed improvers for October 9 were Colin Lewis, Stuart Davies, V Irene Thomas, Christine Davies and Susan Hunt.

There are lessons on Thursdays at 11am, also at Nolton Church Hall, these are primarily for beginners and those who have played some bridge and would like to improve ether or both their bidding and card play.

It is still possible to book a place on the course. Contact John Evans on 01656 880372. **DN**

PENSIONS: *'Let the people decide!'*

TORY peer, Lord Digby Jones, came on my TV to tell us that, since we are all living longer, the increase in pensions paid must mean that, eventually, we shall all run out of money.

It is quite frightening that someone who cannot distinguish the difference between money (a currency token which circulates in order to speed up transactions) and the wealth and resources of a nation, is allowed anywhere near the economy.

If other Conservative gurus in government think in this confused mindset, it is no wonder that we are in trouble.

How much of the nation's resources should be shared and expended on OAPs, depends upon the voting decisions of the generality of citizens, who, one day, will be elderly.

Although 84 per cent of the nation's resources is in the possession of seven per cent of the population – which is the pattern preferred by Tory voters, and opposed by Labour voters – we should be able to find enough food and warmth for our own mothers and fathers if we try, and scorn Digby's warning.

C. N. Westerman,
Brynna

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE COMMUNITY NEWS

55th 'birthday'

AS reported previously in this column, Maesteg 'Gleemen' male voice choir will be celebrating its 55th annual concert in Maesteg town hall this Saturday, October 18 at 7pm.

The compere will be presenter Chris Needs and guest soloist will be soprano Gwaer Edwards, Gwawr of Ceredigion.

The choir's musical director Alun Hodges will conduct the choir with his wife Suzanne as accompanist.

Tickets are available from any chorister or at the town hall's box office.

The choir rehearses in the British Legion Club, Commercial Street, Maesteg on Monday and Thursday evenings from 7pm to 8.30pm, and welcomes visitors.

Ysgol Llanhari's 40th anniversary

IT'S 40 years since Ysgol Llanhari opened its doors for the first time – September 1974 saw Merfyn Griffiths become its first headteacher, and their motto then, as now was *'Gorau Gwaith Gwasanaeth' (Your best work is to Serve).*

To mark the occasion, *Ffrindiau Llanhari* (The Friends of Llanhari) which is a mixture of teachers, parents and friends of the school, will be hosting a special party at Pontyclun RFC on Saturday (October 18).

One area of the hall will be decked from top to toe with memorabilia – school photos, press cuttings and old uniforms.

Among the guest speakers will be three headteachers – Peter Griffiths, Meirion Stephens, and the present head, Rhian Phillips. Among former pupils who will be reminiscing will be Betsan Powys (editor of Radio Cymru) and Geraint Rees (one of the first pupils at the school).

FaceBook has seen many old pupils and teachers asking for tickets and we as a committee are hoping that many more will come forward on Friday.

Danny Grehan,
Chair of Ffrindiau Llanhari,
telephone 07951551607.

Laleston WI

MARGARET Aylen, president of Laleston Women's Institute, opened the October meeting with a minute's silent reflection in memory of Betty Davies and Mari Jones, who had both recently passed away.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read out by Maureen Morgan, assistant secretary and items from the county letter were highlighted.

Members agreed that the visit to the BBC in LLandaff was a great success and they had been pleasantly surprised to meet and chat with Roy Noble and Jason Mohammad. Some members had also enjoyed an evening at the Hi-Tide in Porthcawl, when they had taken part in the Federation quiz.

Transport arrangements were finalised for the visit to the New Theatre today (October 16) to see *Calamity Jane* and also for the Federation Dinner on October 23 at the Hi-Tide.

The Book Club meets in Bridgend Library on October 21. Members were informed that the Christmas lunch on December 9 will be in the Mason's Arms, Bryncethin.

The speaker, Dr Diane Brook, was thanked for standing in at short notice, as the original speaker was unable to attend. Dr Brook, a member of the Glamorgan Family History Society, gave a very interesting and fascinating talk on Tracing your Ancestors with advice and tips on where and how to search for information. Maureen Morgan gave the vote of thanks.

The raffle was won by Pat Gulwell and the competition for an antique item was won by Connie Jones.

The next meeting is on November 6 at 7.15pm in Laleston Gardening Club, Cliff Cottage, High Street, Laleston, when guest speaker Mr G Edwards will be demonstrating the art of glass blowing.

New members and visitors are always welcome; for information call Margaret Aylen on 01656 660384.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:
If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.
I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk

Spooky!

THE Maesteg Amateur Operatic Society is putting on its 71st annual concert in Maesteg town hall starting at 7.15pm from October 22- 25.

Titled Addams Family the Musical, the cast on October 22 and 24 is: Morticia - Meredith Lewis; Gomez - Neil Parker; Wednesday - Rhian Hughes; Pugsley - Henry Lloyd; Fester - Alan Flay; Gran - Ceri-Anne Whittingham; Lurch - Ryan Jenkins; Alice - Kelly Allen; Mal - Jim Lediard.

The cast change on October 23 and 25: Morticia - Sian Rees; Pugsley: Jack Allen; Gran-Nia Scourfield.

The ancestors are Susan Bickle, Sarah Bickle, Katie Bickle, Caitlin, Catherine Jenkins, Ruth Jenkins, Rhodri John, Leanne Morgan, Jane Mullins, Nia Pickrell, Phoebe, Sian Rees, Nia Scourfield, Lewys Steward, Amy Thomas, Aimee Wilkshire and Aled Williams.

The production team: Sarah Thomas - producer/director; Susan Heffey - musical director; Susan Bickle - choreographer; Richard Norton - assistant musical director/accompanist; Sian Rees: assistant director/choreographer.

Traffic concerns

AT a recent Bryncethin PACT meeting, Coun Gary Thomas raised concerns by residents on the serious issue of traffic flow in the area. If motorists parked on one side only in Wigan Terrace; it would help slow traffic speed, it was suggested.

Mercy Ships

IN order to raise funds for the Mercy Ships charity, at Philip Squires Community Centre in Coytrahen, there will be a coffee morning on October 25 at 11 am. Admission £2 includes coffee and cake.

Legion concert

A fund-raising concert for the Royal British Legion at Pontycymer Leisure Centre on Saturday October 25 at 7.30pm, will feature the band and drums of South Wales Police, Côr Meibion Cwm Garw (Garw Valley male choir), and the joint choirs of Blaengarw and Ffaldau primary schools.

A detachment of Army Cadets will help out on the night with tickets, programmes and ushering. Tickets £5 and £2.50 for children 16 and under, can be obtained from Pontycymer Post Office.

Cancer Research UK

ON Saturday, October 18, there will be a 1920s style Great Gatsby Party in the Philip Squires Community Centre, Coytrahen, with music, raffles and prizes (1920s style dress is optional).

Tickets are £6 and can be obtained from the Cancer Research shop, 4, Caroline Street, Bridgend.

School benefit

THERE is a joint charity concert at Aberkenfig Bible Church (Old Lyric Cinema), Pandy Road, Aberkenfig on Saturday October 25 at 7pm.

It features the 21st century choir the Bois Goetre-Hen male voice and the Wyndham Singers from the Culme Valley, Devon.

Tickets are £5 and net proceeds go to Heronsbridge School.

Wildlife Trust of Wales

VOLUNTEERS are required at Parc Slip nature reserve, to help improve the habitat for wildlife, namely the Lapwing which is an iconic farmland bird and has undergone a drastic decline in population as a result of loss of breeding habitat.

Over the next few months, volunteers are required to reverse the decline at the reserve, through a series of habitat creation and management projects.

These will include the creation of wetland scrapes and cryptic nesting sites to the appropriate management of wetlands, meadows and arable fields. The project will also undertake research and monitoring to better understand and conserve the species in Bridgend.

One of the objectives of the project is to remove scrub from breeding grounds and the trust is looking for 'Lapwing Champions', to help with this project.

Official certificates will be presented to volunteers who complete more than five work parties. Telephone Rose on 01656 724100 to register as a volunteer.

YSGOL STANWELL SCHOOL
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Invitation to the school's
OPEN DAY
to be held on
Tuesday 21st October
3.00 - 6.00pm

An opportunity for visitors to tour the school, meet staff and take part in activities

www.stanwell.org

Wick and District ***Pensioners Club joins the Youth Club – AGAIN!***

WICK Youth Club (WYC) recently triumphed against strong opposition in a very competitive Starbucks Youth Award for joint activities with Wick Pensioners Club (WPC).

Wick Pensioners Club joined the Youth Club recently for a day at Cardiff Bay, which began with coffee in Starbucks, followed by a speedboat trip around the Bay; then lunch and on to some finely skilled bowling that produced considerable hidden talent from WPC.

The day concluded with a walk around the Bay, and a coach trip back to Wick. It was a wonderful outing, enjoyed by both clubs.

Further joint activities are planned with a Halloween tea party at the end of October when games old and new will be played. Key words are apples, doughnuts, penguin, hop and conkers.

Wick Pensioners' Conker champion is almost unbeatable and the Youth Club champion is also pretty good! That should be some match. A joint Christmas lunch is planned for February.

Wick Pensioners Club contributed a lovely Welsh flower display at St James Church, Wick flower festival. The club was also able to make a substantial donation toHelp for Heroes charity. A coach trip to Tenby will be followed shortly by coach trips to Cwmbran and Bath. Christmas lunch is December and a weekend away in Torquay in January.

Wick Pensioners Club will also be holding their Christmas fayre in the Village Hall, Wick, on Saturday November 15 from 2pm.

New members at Wick Youth Club and Wick Pensioners Club are always welcome. To join either or both contact George on 01656 890386 as soon as possible. **DRCB**

£25 GEM FACEBOOK PRIZE

Our GEM Facebook winner for October 9, 2014 is:
LAURA GOODHEW
who correctly answered last week's question in The GEM.
Our lucky winning reader, chosen at random wins a £25 prize voucher to spend with any advertiser in last week's GEM.
The competition runs every week throughout 2014 with a potential prize fund of £1,150.
Congratulations, Laura!
REMEMBER TO LIKE US AND SHARE ON FACEBOOK:
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Please ring Sue at **The GEM** on 01446 774484

Happy Birthday
Sarah Smith
on 1st January
Photo
Love from Mum, Dad & family xxx

THE SQUIRREL'S NEST WAS BUILT IN A SHED!

A SMALL industrial unit in Tondu played host to visitors from Australia and Ireland, as Wales' first working 'Men's Shed' showed its style.

The unit, home to The Squirrel's Nest, was buzzing with activity as the men who call it home-away-from-home demonstrated some of their woodworking skills and crafts.

The Squirrel's Nest was established as a charity some years ago, to provide a space where men could get together, work on practical projects and share stories.

They found a new home last year in Tondu and joined in an international movement to give men an outlet for their creative talents and social networking.

The were visited by David Helmers, CEO of Australian Men's Shed Association and John Evoy, CEO of Men's Sheds Ireland.

The Men's Shed movement started in Australia, to provide a place for men to hang out, socialise, do something practical and talk at the same time.

It was quickly discovered that it could increase men's quality and length of life. Men could talk about health and life issues in an atmosphere that is comfortable.

In Tondu, the members have filled the unit with lathes, benches, saws, hammers and paintbrushes. Skills in woodworking, from the very basic through to some beautiful craft working, are applied to produce anything from pens and bowls to clocks.

They hope to become self-sufficient through selling their handcrafted items.

The Squirrel's Nest was established as a charity some years ago, to provide a space where men could get together, work on practical projects, and share experiences.

The chair of the The Squirrel's Nest, Alan, says: "We started running this years ago. We knew that if we pooled our skills, we could make something bigger and better. It's a chance for guys to get out and meet and talk – which is missing in many people's lives these days. Women are welcome too."

Their success has led to them working with Prostate Cancer UK to run special sessions on Fridays, specifically for men who are living with this disease: "It is an awkward truth, that men find it more difficult to speak about their health. We don't push anyone to share their experiences – they are welcome to just have a coffee and smell the sawdust!"

The Squirrel's Nest is generally open 10am to 3.30pm Monday to Friday at Unit 38 Tondu Enterprise Centre, Bryn Road, Tondu. For any information email them at squirrelsnestms@gmail.com or call 01656 729625.

ARTIST'S DEMO

ON Thursday, October 23, the Cowbridge Art Society will welcome nationally-acclaimed artist, demonstrator and author, Fiona Peart, who will demonstrate painting a street scene and figures in watercolour.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge from 7pm–9pm and visitors and new members are welcome.

For details of the society's activities, see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

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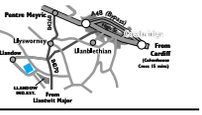

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CAN YOU FIND SANTA'S REINDEER?

PRIMARY school-age children can get in the mood for Christmas by entering a special competition organised by Porthcawl Saint Sébastien Town Twinning Association and Porthcawl Chamber of Trade.

Important clues are contained in five chapters of a story – which The GEM will be featuring today and over the next four weeks.

The competition is based on the story, *The Mysterious Disappearance of Father Christmas' Reindeer,* which has been written by Joël Guerriau, the Mayor of Saint Sébastien (Porthcawl's twin town) with illustrations by Mathieu Redelsperger.

The English translation is by Melanie Weaver.

The first book Joël produced for children, *Fergie the witch,* was translated into several languages and adapted for the theatre.

The chapters in The GEM will tell the story of the disappearance of Father Christmas' reindeer - Rudolph, Donner, Dasher, Dancer, Vixen, Prancer, Comet, Cupid and Blitzen.

Children will need to read the story to know which one is which. ***Chapter one is below.***

The plot of the book looks bleak for the reindeer, after Bright Spark, a brilliant inventor, fails to convince Father Christmas that he needs a turbojet sleigh. Father Christmas is just not willing to give up his much-loved reindeer.

Bright spark gets the wicked witch, ugly Dora, to use a potion to change the reindeer into wooden toys.

Father Christmas finds out that his missing reindeer have been turned into wood and have been sold, with millions of others, to decorate shops for Christmas. So he asks all the children of the world to help him find them.

Any child wishing to enter should go to one of the shops in Porthcawl displaying the reindeer poster (***far right***) in their window and ask for a competition entry form. Forms can also be downloaded from ***www.porthcawl-town-twinning.com***

In each of the shops displaying the reindeer poster, there will be a picture of a reindeer. If it is one of the nine belonging to Father Christmas, find the name on the entry form and enter the name of the shop in which you saw it.

You can identify which reindeer is which by reading the story. When you have found all nine of Father Christmas' reindeer, send your completed form to the Town Council offices.

Remember! Not all the reindeer you see will be the reindeer that belong to Father Christmas.

RULES OF THE COMPETITION.

Children must be 11 or under at the time of the draw. Only one entry per child is allowed.

The winners will be the first three correct entries drawn by the Mayor of Porthcawl at the Porthcawl Christmas event on the afternoon of Saturday, November 29.

All winners will receive a copy of the book, which is written in French, together with a copy of the English translation.

All correct entries received by the closing date shall be entered in the prize draw.

First prize, £25 cash and a £25 voucher, to be exchanged at one of the participating traders.

Second prize, £20 cash and a £20 voucher, to be exchanged at one of the participating traders.

Third prize, £15 cash and a £15 voucher to be exchanged at one of the participating traders

There will also be three runners-up prizes of a copy of the book, together with an English translation.

No cash alternative or change is available for the vouchers or any other prize.

The closing date for receipt of entries is November 22.

• *If you cannot obtain a copy of The GEM when the stories are printed each Thursday, copies of the five weekly episodes will be available from the offices of Porthcawl Town Council in Victoria Avenue.*

Porthcawl shops taking part in the competition will be displaying the above poster.

The Mysterious Disappearance of Father Christmas' Reindeer...

Part 1 – *Bright Spark and his Super Sleigh*

by Joël Guerriau

(Mayor of St Sébastien sur Loire, Senator, and children's author)

Illustrated by Mathieu Redelsperger

Translated by Melanie Weaver (Porthcawl St. Sébastien Town Twinning Association)

Bright Spark with his super sleigh.

IN his robotics laboratory, Bright Spark, a brilliant inventor, had always dreamed of becoming as famous as Leonardo da Vinci.

Through his research he decided to create a super sleigh for Father Christmas, incorporating all latest technologies, including:

• A revolutionary electromagnetically powered turbojet engine linked to a hydrogen fission system to enable the sleigh to go faster than the speed of sound;

• A heated bubble to keep nice and warm;

• Phosphorescent electro-luminescent diodes creating beams of light to enable Father Christmas to find his way in the dark;

• Touch-sensitive plasma screens which automatically display the name of each child, his or her address and a list of presents.

With his sleigh, *Galactic One,* which was so clever, Bright Spark was convinced that he would become the most famous scientist in the world.

Bright Spark went to Father Christmas' house to present his invention.

"Look, here is my clever process of automatic piloting and route optimisation and there is the bionic arm which selects the desired toys and places them in your sack.

The glass bubble automatically detaches itself and positions you above the chimney.

"Its opening mechanism prevents you from being exposed to the cold for a single moment so you can travel light, without a coat."

Politely, Father Christmas listened.

"The multi-faceted clock gives you the time in each country to the nearest hundredth of a second, and there…"

Father Christmas interrupted Bright Spark.

"I've travelled around the whole world for ages now. I'm not going to change the way I travel at my age. If I did buy your sleigh what would become of my reindeer? They would die of grief," asserted Father Christmas, thus putting an end to their conversation.

Bright Spark, annoyed, knew that Father Christmas would not change his mind but he had worked with so much determination to create his brilliant invention that he could not leave it there.

So, that night, he secretly went to the bats' cave where the kitchen laboratory of the witch, Ugly Dora, was found.

"Ugly Dora, can you help me to get rid of the nuisance reindeer?"

"You lucky so-and-so! I have just the right potion that you need. Scatter this on the grass before the reindeer eat it and in a flash they will be transformed into wooden toys!"

Will the reindeer eat the poisonous potion? Find out in the next edition of The GEM!

Mums-to-be are urged to have flu jab

MUMS-TO-BE in the area are being urged to have a flu jab this winter to protect their unborn child.

Nia Wyn Davies (*pictured*) had the vaccine while she was pregnant two years ago.

She did not hesitate to be vaccinated again this year now she is expecting another child.

Nia, an ABMU neuropsychologist, said: "This is my second pregnancy. I had the flu jab with my first. He's now 16 months old. I didn't have any symptoms from having the flu jab.

"I had it around the six months mark, which is where I am at the moment with the second baby.

"I'm having the jab now for the same reasons I had it the first time, which is to protect myself and the baby from developing any complications if I was to contract the flu virus."

Ellie (8) wins design prize

Ellie shows off her winning design.

A BRIDGEND school pupil has bagged a big prize in an art competition organised by the town's Tesco store to tell customers about their click + collect groceries online shopping service.

Ellie Powell, aged eight of Penybont Primary, won £250 for the school, plus a £25 Tesco gift card for herself.

Her winning artwork will be printed on 250 re-usable jute shopping bags distributed free to parents and children at the winning school.

You can read your GEM online - just visit ***bridgend-today.co.uk***

Lorry driver gears up for digital age

MIKE DILLING

A FORMER lorry driver from Bridgend who had never used a computer six months ago, is now targeting employment – thanks to switching on to the digital revolution.

Mike Dilling (53) spent 22 years as a lorry driver before leaving his cab.

Through a digital inclusion project at his shared supported housing complex, Caer Las in Bridgend, he undertook IT skills training, including basic IT skills at Pyle library.

Now Mike is helping to raise awareness of digital literacy in Wales this week as part of 'Get Online Week' – a nationwide drive to encourage people without digital skills to learn how to log on and start using the worldwide web in their daily lives.

With latest figures showing that almost one in five Welsh adults has never used the internet, free events are being held across Wales.

The events being run by Communities 2.0 will be held across Bridgend, including a 'Digital Thursday' event today (Thursday, October 16) at Porthcawl Library at 10am.

Sensitive Lola needs your calming touch...

Can you provide Lola with a new home?

LOLA is a four-year-old lurcher who has had an unsettled life, making her a very sensitive girl who will need a calm and patient owner to understand that she needs time to settle in.

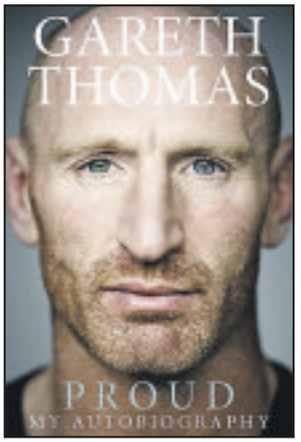
Lola is a bright spark, loves toys and treats, and really enjoys burning her energy with a good run off her lead, or is just as happy with a wander in the woods.

She is fearful of other dogs, and owners will need to help her with this. She will suit a quiet home with any children being aged 14 plus, with consistent owners who will continue the positive, reward-based training we are using to work with her.

She is an affectionate and loyal dog to people who gain her trust – Lola will make a wonderful companion in the right hands!

If you can offer Lola, or any of our lovely dogs a home, please call us on 01656 725219, or pop in to Dogs Trust Bridgend, we are open 12pm-4pm every day except Monday.

LINDA FEAGAN,
Supporter Relations Officer,
Dogs Trust Bridgend



In 'Proud My Autobiography' Gareth Thomas tells the story of his life including the inner torment he suffered until he revealed the truth about his sexuality.

Gareth Thomas 'wings' in to book festival

by STELLA CHEESEMAN

The Cowbridge Book Festival is delighted and proud to be hosting Welsh international rugby star and hero to many, Gareth Thomas, who will present his book 'Proud My Biography', at St. Quentin's Suite, at The Bear Hotel, on Thursday, October 30.

He will be in conversation with his co-writer, the highly acclaimed sports writer and journalist Michael Calvin.

Gareth is committed to telling his story and this event, which is sponsored by The Bear Hotel, promises to be a fascinating glimpse into his inspiring and moving autobiography.

He was a national hero, a sporting icon, he had captained Wales and the British Lions – rugby gave him everything, except the freedom to be himself.

His is the story of a man with a secret that was slowly killing him, a secret that might devastate not only his own life but also the lives of his wife, family, friends and teammates.

Gareth's fear that telling the truth about his sexuality would cost him everything he loved almost sent him over the edge.

The deceit ended when Gareth became the world's most prominent athlete to come out as a gay man. His story transcends the world of sport to tell a universal truth about feeling like an outsider, and facing up to who you really are.

He is a dedicated supporter of the charity Childline and frequently visits schools to talk about bullying.

Award winning author Michael Calvin is currently chief sports writer for the Independent on Sunday. His last book, The Nowhere Men, was voted the Sports Book of the Year 2014 at the British Sports Book Awards.

All proceeds from festival events are donated to Leukemia & Lymphoma Research and The Noah's Ark Appeal Children's Hospital of Wales.

Details of all events can be found on the Festival Website *www.cowbridgebookfestival.co.uk*. Tickets are available online via the Festival Website; or TicketlineUK; or from David Barnes (Dry Cleaners) High St., Cowbridge; or Nicklebys' Book Shop, Pound Field, Llantwit Major. There's still time to buy your tickets for the Chris Bryant MP event for October 24.

Coming soon – Wednesday, November 12, Katie Fforde and local author JoThomas with Lucy Owen.

ALL WALES AWARD FOR LOCAL BUILDER

STEVE JAMES of SJ Builders in the Vale won the Best Craftsmanship award at the Regional All Wales Building Excellence Awards 2014 held in the Millenium Centre.

LEFT: Steve James of S. J. Builders being presented the award by Paul Everill CBE, chief executive LABC.

Builders from across the country compete for a chance to win at the National Building Excellence Awards, being held in London next month, which SJ Builders will be involved.

Marcus Goldsworthy, manager of the building and development control team in the Vale said: "I am extremely pleased that the Vale of Glamorgan can have such a strong showing at the National Building awards and it highlights both the quality and type of projects being undertaken in the Vale can challenge the best from the rest of England and Wales.

"It is testament to the quality of the project, agents, builders and the Council's building control team that the Vale of Glamorgan, with SJ Builder's have won such a prestigious award."

Coun Lis Burnett, cabinet member for regeneration, innovation, planning and transportation, said: "It is wonderful to see a small business, and in particular the Vale of Glamorgan, competing with schemes nationally. I am extremely pleased for all those involved and I think it shows that the Vale is a place where you can really do business.

"The Vale Council would like to thank their local sponsors for helping get the builders the recognition which they derserve – the Glamorgan Gem, Nina Estate Agents, Greenbuild Consult and ACD Skip Recycling."

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Patagonia bound... All for Velindre!

BBC weatherman Derek Brockway has signed up to trek Patagonia in 2015 to raise funds for Velindre Cancer Centre.

To kick off his fundraising, he will be leading an eight-mile walk on Sunday, November 30, from his home town of Barry, through the old docks along the coast to the most southerly point on mainland Wales, Rhoose Point.

It will take in sandy beaches, an old watch tower, an Iron Age settlement and many of the places featured in the hit TV series *Gavin and Stacey*.

Derek said: "Velindre is a wonderful charity and helps so many people, including a few of my friends, family and work colleagues, providing vital treatment, care and support. The number of people suffering from cancer is on the increase; none of us know what's around the corner and I want to do my bit to help.

"I am fascinated by Patagonia, its history and its connection with Wales and as a keen walker, I've always wanted to visit this special part of the world. Plus while I am there I will have the opportunity to practice my Welsh, say *shwmae* and *hwyl am y tro!*

"I am really looking forward to following in the footsteps of the first Welsh settlers 150 years ago. The trek is going to be a challenge and I will need to get fitter over the next 12 months but more importantly I hope to raise loads of money for Velindre, so it can continue to help people in the future – and with more research, hopefully find a cure for cancer. My walk on November 30 will be the start of my fitness regime and I hope lots of people sign up and join me."

People can show their support for the campaign by visiting: www.velindrefundraising.com/victoryovercancer

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Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. *'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'*

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Confiscated illegal fishing gear is put to good use!

FISHING tackle confiscated from illegal anglers, is being given a new lease of life – after being donated to the Bridgend and District Fishing for the Disabled Association by Natural Resources Wales.

ABOVE: Fisheries enforcement officer Paul Frodsham donates equipment to club secretary Byron Morgan.

It is now being put to good use by the Association, which offers adults and children with disabilities a safe environment to learn to fish with specialist instructors.

For Natural Resources Wales, it's a small triumph in the battle against illegal fishing. Paul Frodsham, Fisheries Enforcement Officer from Natural Resources Wales explained: "We regulate fishing so that so that the sport which is loved by so many can remain sustainable and can continue to be enjoyed by future generations.

"However, there are still those who think they can flout the rules and fish without a licence – and it's these people who are jeopardising the sport for everyone. While the fight against illegal fishing continues, it's been great that we've been able to give something back to the community and donate the equipment to a worthy cause.

"The great thing about fishing is that it's a sport for life, which can be enjoyed by everyone. We hope that the many visitors to the club will enjoy the opportunity to learn a new skill, while at the same time meeting new people and getting out and about in our wonderful environment."

Ralph Merchant, Chairman of the Bridgend and District Fishing for the Disabled Association said: "We're often short of equipment, so the donation has been very helpful and we are looking forward to putting the equipment to good use. We help adults and children with a range of disabilities by teaching them how to cast a line, reel it in and net fish. Some will learn new skills and others will just enjoy a day out – the main thing is that they get to enjoy the experience of fishing."

In its first year of operation, Natural Resources Wales caught 139 individuals committing a variety of offences, ranging from not having a rod licence to illegal netting and foul hooking.

This resulted in successful prosecutions in all but three cases and total fines of £18,468 plus the confiscation of tackle and equipment.

People can report suspected illegal fishing to the Natural Resources Wales 24-hour incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60.

The Bridgend and District Fishing for the Disabled Association provides angling opportunities for over 180 disabled children and adults each year.

It is currently looking for volunteers who can help disabled adults and children learn to fish.

Any anglers willing to volunteer should contact chairman Ralph Merchant on 01656 660683.

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Polyphonic choir's 50th anniversary

CARDIFF Polyphonic Choir will complete its 50th anniversary year with two major concerts.

On Saturday, November 15 at 7pm in The Dora Stoutzker Hall at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama it will give a first performance of two pieces written for the choir by renowned Welsh composer Huw Watkins – Charm Me Asleep and Slow, Slow, Fresh Fount – settings of poems by Robert Herrick.

On Sunday, December 14 at 5pm the choir returns to St David's Hall to give the Christmas performance of Handel's *Messiah* (www.cardiffpolyphonic.org.uk/messiah.htm).

Soloists are Rebecca Evans (one of the choir's two patrons); and tenor, Trystan Llyr Griffiths.

The photograph (above) was taken in the 1960s. The choir is offering two of the best seats in the house for its performance of Messiah in St David's Hall to whoever correctly identifies the highest number of those in the photograph and its location.

Details of how to take part are on www.cardiffpolyphonic.org.uk/anniversary%20concert.htm.

Bridgend vicar joins Llandaff Cathedral 'team'

REV Michael Komor, who is to become a member of Llandaff Cathedral Chapter, has been Rector of Coity, Nolton and Brackla since 2005.

In July, the Benefice was expanded to include the new parish of Coychurch. He has represented the Diocese on the Church in Wales' Electoral College since 2007, was Area Dean of Bridgend between 2004 and 2010 and Vicar of Ewenny and St Brides from 2000 to 2005.

He was ordained in 1986 – serving curacies in Mountain Ash and Llantwit Major before spending nine years as Team Vicar in the Rectorial Benefice of Llantwit Major.

The Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan said: "Michael Komor has served all his ministry in the Llandaff Diocese. He is highly regarded by his colleagues and has been responsible for training many curates".

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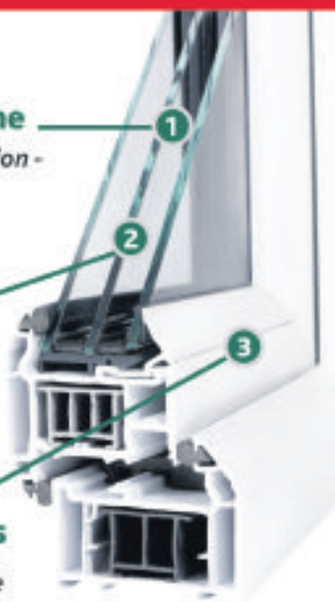

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WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

Art Central talk

ART Central friends are holding an autumn talk on all things sculptural at Art Central Gallery, Kings Square, Barry this Saturday (October 18) at 11am.

"Please come along and meet the artists, see their work and learn what inspires them. Refreshments will be served and all are welcome", a spokeswoman urged.

Poppy Appeal concert

THE Dinas Powys Royal British legion branch is holding its annual concert in aid of the Poppy Appeal on Saturday (October 18) at the Parish Hall, Dinas Powys at 7.30am. Tickets available at the door.

Festive Lights

THERE will be a meeting of the St Athan Christmas Lights Association on October 19 at 2pm in the Three Horseshoes, St Athan, for anyone interested in assisting with the Christmas Lights event in St Athan on Sunday November 30. ***Further details from the event co-ordinator, Alan Bourne, on 0776 9977 207.***

Wick Sale

WICK Youth Club is holding a table top sale on October 19 in Wick Village Hall (10am - 12 noon).

To book a table, call Carol on 01656 890124.

Lunchtime music

I WOULD like to alert the music lovers of Penarth to the fact that All Saints Church in Victoria Square is once again putting on a series of its popular 'Music at Lunchtime' recitals starting on Monday, October 20 between 1pm-2pm.

Those who have attended these lunchtime concerts in the past will know that they are extremely enjoyable and convivial events held on a very informal basis. Those who haven't been before should come along and see what they think.

Concert go-ers are invited to bring their lunch along and sit upstairs in the gallery, where teas and coffees are served.

There will be six weekly concerts in all, providing a feast of musical entertainment of all kinds – vocal, string, wind, organ, guitar, piano – every Monday between October 20 and November 24. To know more, go the church website www.allsaintspenarth.org.uk; email admin@allsaintspenarth.org.uk or ring 029 2070 31 70. Entry is free because all the artists are performing free of charge. Donations, however, will be gratefully accepted. *Dafydd Jones*

Rural surgery

THE Vale of Glamorgan Council's rural housing team's mobile advice surgery will be in the Waitrose car park at Cowbridge on October 20 between 9.30am and 4pm; and in Rhoose (opposite the district social club) between 12.30pm and 4pm.

"Residents will be able to sit down with their local rural housing enabler for an informal chat, and ask for any information or support surrounding housing issues in the rural Vale," a spokesperson said.

For further information, call the Rural Housing team on 01446 709 476, or email housingstrategy@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Valeways walks

ON October 21 at 9.30am, Awn am Dro, meet outside Cowbridge Library.

On October 22 at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet outside Romilly Cafe, Cold Knap, Barry.

On October 23 at 10.30am, 'Views and Garden' starting at Southerndown lower car park.

Hand booksale

ON Saturday, October 25 (10.30am-3.30pm) at the Scout Hall behind the Sheep Market, Cowbridge; adult books, fiction and non-fiction children's books, jigsaws, bric-a-brac, entry free. ***All proceeds to Scout funds***.

Society AGM

ALL members are asked to attlend the annual general meeting of the Llantwit Major Horticultural Society on Wednesday, October 29 in the Llantonian Hall, Llantwit Major at 7.30pm.

Children's Society fayre

THE Children's Society's autumn fayre will be held in The Paget Rooms, Penarth on Saturday, October 25 from 10am-12noon.

Stalls include homemade cakes/preserves, plants/bulbs, autumn stall/Christmas cards, books, lucky parcels; plus raffle.

Admission £1, including coffee/tea/biscuits; children admitted free. Call 029 2070 3547 for further information.

Carvery demo

THE Bridgend and Porthcawl Fundraising Group for Marie Curie is holding a Carvery and Fruitydelicious demonstration on Thursday, November 20 at Fairways Hotel Porthcawl.

This is a ticketed event only and tickets costing £15 are available from Seren Fach Café, Wells Street, Porthcawl or by telephoning 01656 660391. The evening will start at 7.30pm.

WELLY WEEK IS BACK!

THIS half term is jam-packed with activities to entertain your kids all week at Dyffryn Gardens in the Vale.

It is bringing back its annual Welly Week this October half-term. Grab your brightest and most colourful wellies to explore the grounds. There will be 10 multi-coloured wellies hidden all over the gardens and house; if you can find them all, including the mysterious golden welly, you will be in with winning an exciting prize.

Make it Mondays and 50 things Wednesdays are back too, with making autumn leaf crowns on Monday and building your own bird box on Wednesday between 12 and 3pm.

Squelch your way through the muddy arboretum trail and see the gorgeous colours of autumn. Collect conkers to battle your friends and spot squirrels foraging for nuts ready for winter.

• Don't miss our Halloween family party on October 31, with a disco, games and activities. Tickets, £5 per person.

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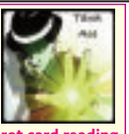

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Grant does what he does best in The Rewrite

HUGH GRANT has been more notable in recent years for his attempts to regulate the press than for his acting roles; however, the English 'king of the rom-com' has been seen onscreen in the likes of *Cloud Atlas* and heard onscreen in enjoyable animated romp *The Pirates! In an Adventure with Scientists!*

Grant is now returning to arguably his forte in *The Rewrite*. Re-teaming for the fourth time with writer/director Marc Lawrence (the romantic comedy genre's version of Scorsese and DeNiro, or DiCaprio),

Grant plays Keith Michaels, an Oscar-winning writer who finds his career in a slump. In order to pay the bills, he begrudgingly goes to work at a college, teaching screenwriting; but amidst the drudgery of work, and his attempts to reignite his writing fire, there may be light at the end of the tunnel in the shape of Holly (Marisa Tomei), a single mother taking classes there...

If you've seen any of the films Hugh John Mungo Grant (yes, that is his real name) has made with Marc Lawrence, then you'll have a pretty fair idea of what to expect from *The Rewrite*.

Grant has made his name (and attracted a fair amount of critical ire) from these romantic comedies, his particular brand of bumbling English-ness informing the material, and so it goes here.

Ironically, given its title, The Rewrite seems to borrow from previous Grant/Lawrence joints – you have the stand-offish slightly self-satisfied cad from *Two Weeks' Notice,* a cad who is creative (swap the songwriter of *Music and Lyrics* for screenwriter here) and who learns to better himself and find peace within – thanks to burgeoning love with the romantic interest (both … *Notice* and … Lyrics).

Throw in some fish-out-of-water shenanigans (also seen in *Did You Hear About The Morgans*) and *The Rewrite* seems to be rewritten from the pair's back catalogue.

Yet despite the lack of originality, the slightly cliched storytelling and the predictable plot points, *The Rewrite* does have a certain degree of charm, both in terms of its performances and the seen-it-all before narrative, and is amusing enough to help pass 106 minutes of your life.

Lawrence seems happy to mine Grant's own comedic stylings to deliver the laughs here, and while, predictably, these hang heavily on his furrowed brow, range of facial expressions and withering comments, it's not all that hellish to watch him run through his usual routine.

Whether its down to Grant's absence from the big screen making the heart grow fonder (and if you find his acting in any way a negative then avoid at all costs), or just that he can execute this material seemingly in his sleep, there's something enjoyable watching him go through the motions – even though we know exactly where we are going to end up; Grant is doing what he does best, and, to be fair, it works.

Lawrence assembles a seasoned cast to back up Grant, with the irrepressibly perky Marisa Tomei providing both a love interest and a positive counterpoint to Grant's character's slightly soured world view, while the likes of Chris Elliott, Bella Heathcoate and the always-watchable pair of Alison Janney and JK Simmons provide decent support.

Lawrence directs the film with a pleasing verve, and his script, while adhering to the rules of romantic comedy, has more than a few digs at the state of Hollywood at present.

While its core message of learning to trust your own voice and being true to yourself feels a little simplistic, it fits within the film, which itself is hardly edgy or strikingly daring.

You can consider that the film's real shortcoming; that it doesn't take a different tack to what you expect, that, to use an advertising slogan, it does exactly what it says on the tin; while that may be a criticism, if the thought of watching Hugh Grant gad about in an inoffensive, faintly amusing comedy sounds appealing, then you'll have no truck with *The Rewrite*.

VERDICT: A pleasingly slight return to the big screen for Hugh Grant and his own particular brand of comedy,

The Rewrite lacks originality but charms thanks to the efforts of its cast. Grant-haters will only find ammunition in Marc Lawrence's film, but anyone else will be reasonably entertained by its efforts. *Enjoyable*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Two Weeks' Notice* (2003), *Music and Lyrics* (2007).

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

Out of Africa – Bedwas bus is on the way home!

THE Barry-based Cardiff Transport Preservation Group has successfully raised £20,000 to bring a bus built in 1951 back to Wales from a museum in South Africa.

The bus, Bedwas & Machen 7 as seen in Caerphilly in 1979. (Photograph by Geoff Lumb.)

Mike Taylor, chairman of the heritage vehicle collection at The Bus Depot, Barry explained: "At the moment, the former 63-year-old Bedwas & Machen UDC bus, an AEC Regal III, is in the Sandstone Heritage Trust museum in the Orange State in central South Africa.

"The bus has special significance, as it was the last single deck bus built by the Bruce Coach Works in Cardiff, at the former Pengam Airport, back in 1951.

"The bus, a single decker with half cab layout and 35 seats was one of two that were bought by the South East Wales municipality Bedwas & Machen Urban District Council, number 6 and 7. Bus No 7 was bought by an enthusiast but his job took him to South Africa, and he took this bus with him. While in South Africa it was kept at and subsequently sold to the Sandstone Heritage Trust, and they have agreed to let us have it back here in Wales," Mr Taylor added.

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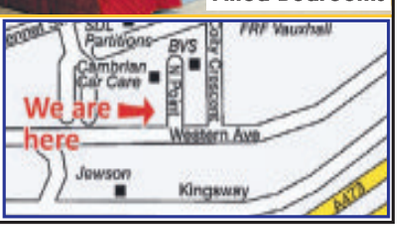

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Councils call on public to 'have their say' over where the cuts will fall

CUTS to the budgets of Welsh local authorities have meant that both Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and the Vale Council have invited residents to "have their say" on where cuts should be made.

Last week, when the Welsh Government (WG) released details of this year's budget, the scale of the reduction in budget to local authorities became clear.

The Welsh Government insisted that the cuts were due to the cuts made by the Westminster coalition government.

The WG Public Services Minister, Leighton Andrews said that Welsh councils were getting, on average, 3.4 per cent less that last year in real terms.

He said "The settlement is challenging but is a consequence of the large scale budget reductions being imposed by the UK Government: "The Welsh Government's budget for 2015-16 will be around 10 per cent lower in real terms compared with 2010-11.

"However, unlike England, we have protected local authorities in Wales from the bulk of these cuts over the past five years. Spending on local services in England has decreased by around seven per cent in cash terms, while in Wales it has increased by three per cent.

"I am providing an additional £10 million in recognition of the importance of strong local social services to the long-term success of the health service in Wales and will continue to protect schools funding, in line with our commitment to provide an increase in resources at one per cent above the overall change in the Welsh Budget."

It means that WG cash to the Vale Council will fall from £157.889 million in 2014/15 to £152.507 million in 2015/15 – a fall of £5,382,000.BCBC receives more cash from the WG, and its 2014/15 grant of £195.160 million will fall to £188.543 million – a shortfall of £6,567,000.

The Vale Council reacted by asking residents to play a role in reshaping services across the county by sharing their views on which services they value the most.

The council says that it will need to find savings of £32 million over the next three years. Its 'Reshaping Services Strategy' is an attempt to gain a degree of consensus on where those cuts should fall.

Coun Neil Moore, Leader of the Vale Council, said: "The budget survey has been designed to measure how highly Vale residents value the services that they use.

The responses we receive will help us tackle the big challenges that the Council has to face."

The budget survey, as well as more detailed information about the Vale Council's budget, is available on at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/budget. Hard copies are available on request by calling 01446 700111. The consultation will close on 31 October.

BCBC's public consultation will run until November 17. It is designed to give residents an opportunity to make their own alternative suggestions while answering a series of structured questions.

A BCBC spokesman said: "The consultation will incorporate a number of community workshops and an easy-to-use 'budget simulator' tool.

"This will enable people to demonstrate how they would go about spending the council's £255m budget, determine which services need to be prioritised and identify a savings target of £12.4m for the year."

Council Leader Mel Nott said: "This is an extremely difficult time for local government. Councils across Wales are facing unprecedented challenges in the face of reduced Government funding and increased demands on essential services.

"There are going to be some aspects of council services that the authority may no longer be able to provide, and finding different ways to meet the future needs of individuals, families and communities is not always going to be popular.

"But this is the harsh reality of the situation that we now face, and it's why we want local people to take part in this consultation, and help inform the difficult decisions that will need to be taken."

BCBC chief executive Darren Mepham added: "Setting a multi-million pound budget is not an easy task, so we'll be using a budget simulator in both the formal consultation and at community workshops to give people a better idea of what the process entails and to enrich the quality of their feedback."

People can take part in the BCBC 2015-16 budget consultation by visiting the consultation pages at the council's website - www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation - or attending one of the following community engagement workshops (email consultation@bridgend.gov.uk to arrange your place):

Wednesday, October 29: Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen, 6pm.

Monday, November 3: Maesteg Comprehensive, 6pm

Tuesday, November 4: Pencoed Comprehensive, 6pm.

Wednesday, November 5: Bridgend College, 6pm.

Tuesday, November 11: Cynffig Comprehensive, 6pm.

PHILIP IRWIN

Conservatives attack Welsh Labour over cutbacks to Vale Council

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE Leader of the Conservatives in the Vale Council – Coun John Thomas – has criticised the Welsh Labour Government for imposing "swingeing" cuts on the council.

He also urged residents to have their say on a Vale Council-sponsored survey, or face losing key services.

He said: "The Welsh Government has slashed funding to the Vale Council by millions of pounds which will have a profound impact on the services, that matter to residents.

"It is vital that people have their say because there is little doubt that these swingeing cuts will pose significant challenges here in the Vale.

"The Welsh Government continues to waste money on pet projects like Cardiff Airport, office refurbishments and the T9. All money which could be better spent."

It was unsurprising, perhaps, that his statement contained no mention of cuts imposed by the Conservative and Lib Dem coalition Government.

More surprising was the response from Plaid Cymru, who passed up the chance to criticise the Lib-Dems or the Conservatives.

Coun Ian Johnson, who represents a Barry ward on the Vale Council, also concentrated his fire on the Welsh Labour Government.

He said: "Plaid Cymru is deeply concerned at the cuts that Welsh Government want the Vale Council to make.

"Welsh Government funding is three-quarters of the council's total budget and they are planning on making a £5.5m cut.

"Plaid Cymru is worried that we will see cutbacks in the most obvious visible services – rubbish collection, street-lighting, grass-cutting and we have already seen proposals for cuts in libraries."

He added: "These cuts are being made because Westminster does not properly fund Wales according to need, and the decision to put the City of London ahead of public services in Wales."

Chance to learn all about children's rights

YOUNG people across the Vale will have a chance to join a new project called Rights Ambassadors, which highlights children's rights.

Participants will create and deliver workshops to children, young people and professionals throughout the Vale.

The scheme is being run by the Vale Council's youth service and funded by the Vale Children and Young People's Partnership.

Three introductory evenings will provide young people with full details about the project: October 21 at West House, Penarth from 5.30pm; October 22 at YMCA Hub, Barry from 4.30pm; and October 23 at Llantwit Youth Centre, Llantwit Major from 5.30pm.

Telephone 029 2070 1254, or email thepoint@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

END OF THE LINE FOR THE LOCAL RAILWAY SEMAPHORE SIGNALS

by BRIAN MILLS

RAIL commuters may have noticed that railway semaphore signals have recently disappeared from the Vale of Glamorgan Line and Barry area and replaced by colour-light signals.

The last four at Barry were removed on June 28-29. In fact, there are only a few semaphore signals still in service on the Western Region, except where regional territory has been changed, for instance at Shrewsbury and Worcester.

This is attributed to the need to bring signalling up to state-of-the-art format. The aim is to control the whole of Wales' rail traffic from the recently installed £4.3m Wales central control centre at Canton, which is to tie in with station modernisation, track remodelling and better line capacity.

For some signal enthusiasts, sadly, the semaphore arms which gave a splash of colour to an otherwise drab railway scene of brown track versus lineside foliage, have succumbed to grey masts with single multi-aspect LED signals at their head, some with a 'feather' to signal a path to diversion of track at junctions.

Another of the two former Barry Railway signal boxes has also been closed and is likely to be demolished now that it no longer has any control function and its 'partner' at Aberthaw was closed in 2013 after the new colour-light signalling of the Vale line to Bridgend was commissioned.

Since the end of World War Two, I have been an ardent fan of former GWR semaphore signalling and that of its successors, British Railways and Network Rail. At the age of 10, my Sunday school teacher, Reg. Farmer, introduced me to his signal box at Cadoxton South Junction, then at pre-nationalisation, and my profound interest in signalling was born.

I became voluntarily involved in 'working' ten signal boxes in the Glamorgan area from 1957, starting at Rhoose and through to other signal boxes until 1968 and as a part-time vocation. I was able to absorb the technicalities of mechanical railway signalling and accrued sufficient knowledge to eventually present slide presentations to railway staff and heritage railway members.

One of the pre-Beeching branch closures that suffered locally was the Barry-Pontypridd line via Wenvoe. Apparently, after removal of the lineside telegraph poles, one pole was overlooked and for a while stood forlornly at the top of the bank above Wenvoe tunnel bore near Rhiwau crossing.

After 1963, the line to Caerphilly from Tynycaeau Junction on the Wenvoe line saw its last through coal traffic to Barry from the Rhymney valley via the Penrhos branch. When the branch closed, coal to Barry docks and Aberthaw power station had to be routed via the Caerphilly tunnel.

The line to the Dolomite establishment at Taffs Well gorge was finally worked as a long siding from Penrhos Junction (Caerphilly) end and that too succumbed along with the removal of the very impressive Taffs Well viaduct. The Llantrisant-Cowbridge line in its final years was worked as a long siding and the little semaphore signalling involved, was removed from the branch.

I felt it would be rewarding to put some of my knowledge together in book form. It has culminated in a 250-page book with over 130 colour photographs with signal assembly drawings, wiring diagrams and associated data – all written in the simplest form and showing the development of Brunel's GWR disc and crossbar signalling system of 1849, through to British Railways Western Region semaphore signalling remnants as at 2014.

My 49 years association with the Permanent Way Institution has taken up the task of publishing my book which is entitled, 'Western Region Semaphore Signalling in the 1960s and Thereafter'. Some 3,700 of my photographic records taken from 1958 are now included in Philip Toogood's TRACKBED.Com website.

OBITUARY: Mrs Eira Evans

Oldest stalwart of 6th Barry Scout Group dies aged 97

RIGHT: Mrs Evans, as her Scouts will remember her.

MRS Eira Evans, who has died aged 97, was the last leader of the 6th Barry BP Scout Troop, reconvened in 1933, after the troop had been closed during the First World War.

It was in 1936 that Miss Eira Powell became an assistant cub mistress, and her Jungle Book name was Kaa.

Jack Evans was running the Cub Pack, as well as the Scout Troop at the time, but still had time for love to flourish.

With the outbreak of war, Jack joined the Royal Navy and The Scout troop shut down due to lack of a leader,

However, Eira continued to run the Cub pack at their weekly meetings in the Park Crescent Mission Hall, assisted byWinnie James.

In 1944, Jack and Eira were married when they moved to Glasgow, where he was based. After the 2nd World War, they returned to Barry, where they re-established the Troop.

When the family (John and Julie) came along, Eira relinquished her role as Cub mistress, but her support for Jack, who was Group Scout Master, helped to make it one of the most successful groups in the country.

She and the family spent many years after the war running the two- week summer camps, which many of the old Scouts fondly remember.

Jack became the Rev Jack Evans in 1965, serving the community of Barry and Barry Island with the ever- faithful support of Eira, up to his death in 2003.

She has been living in Bristol for the last 10 years close to her daughter.

The funeral will be held at All Saints Church, Barry, on Monday (October 20) at 2pm.

LIB DEM ADVICE

ELUNED PARROTT, Lib Dem AM for South Wales Central, will be holding an advice surgery at Tesco Superstore, Terra Nova Way, Penarth, CF64 1SA, between 1pm and 2pm on October 17.

Residents who have any issues of concern to them or their local community, are encouraged to go along – no appointment is necessary.

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WELSH MINER'S LAMP SHINES LIGHT ON WAR HEROES' SACRIFICE

ON September 19, Group 617 from Penarth Pavilion and members of the Barry RAF Association attended a service in Steenbergen, Holland, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Mosquito plane crash that cost the lives of Guy Gibson VC and his navigator James Warwick.

Air cadets from 372 (Barry) and 1148 (Penarth) Air Training Corps Squadrons laid wreaths on the graves to mark the occasion.

Wing Commander Guy Gibson won the Victoria Cross for his part in leading the famous raid on the Dams. Mike Gibson, a nephew of Guy, was present to lay his own wreath on his uncle's grave.

A service of remembrance was conducted by dignitaries of the town, which brought many Dutch people together to remember his life and the ultimate price he paid on a Pathfinder mission, where he lost his life.

The graves of Guy Gibson and James Warwick had been faithfully tended over the years and the family responsible for that selfless task thanked for their dedication.

A Welsh miner's lamp was presented to the family, for keeping the light burning over the intervening years, by Group 617 chairman, Mr Russ Kitely.

RAF Association standards from the region, Barry and Penarth were dipped in respect, as the Last Post sounded at the grave site.

Cadet Sgt Jake Paterson said after the wreath laying, that it had "left a wonderful memory of the day" and brought home the part Guy Gibson played in the Dambuster Raid, which he hoped to take with him when he joined the RAF as an officer.

GEOFF HORTON
(Chairman and Hon Welfare Officer, Barry RAF Association)

The wreath laying ceremony at Steenbergen Cemetery.

ABOVE: The Chinese visitors, Joe Zhu, Zhang Sheng and Wang Ling with Mary Husted and Jane Hutt AM at the Senedd.

Three Chinese, an artist, and an AM link up at Assembly

VALE artist Mary Husted and three special visitors from China were met at the Senedd building in Cardiff Bay by Jane Hutt, AM for the Vale.

Mary Husted is the initiating curator of the Open Books exhibition. The idea for the exhibition came from her time in Hong Kong and her fascination with folding and expanding books which artists use there.

In collaboration with other artists from Wales, Hong Kong and Australia, the Open Books exhibition opened in 2012 at the National Library of Wales. Since then the exhibition has toured China and Australia.

The AM opened the exhibition when it came to Cardiff Bay in 2013 and was 'delighted' to meet Mary and her guests last week to discuss how this successful project has grown, with plans to take it on further tours home and abroad.

The Chinese visitors were: Joe Zhu, senior art journalist at City Express, Hangzhou, Zhang Sheng, General Manager, DK Creative Culture, Hangzhou and Wang Ling, General Manager, Tea Culture Institute, Hangzhou.

'We will say this only once..!'

THE Dinas Powys Players are now well into rehearsals for their autumn production.

*A cast of young, old and new members has been assembled for the stage version of **'Allo, 'Allo,'** the highly successful TV comedy series by Jeremy Lloyd and David Croft which follows the adventures of Rene, the hapless cafe owner and his wife Edith in war torn France.*

The players are confident that their audiences will have an evening of fun and laughter when the show, directed by Eileen Carryer, is presented at the Parish Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys on November 13, 14 and 15.

For tickets, telephone 02920 512868 or 02921 406168. Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm.

Oz executives on fact-finding trip

CHIEF executives from Australia visited Newydd Housing Association on Friday October 10, to take ideas back Down Under.

All three from housing associations in New South Wales, visited the former Barry Magistrates Court housing development and Thompson Street estate in Barry, where they met contractors and spoke to tenants.

Maree McKenzie from Tamworth, Karen Andrew Orange) and Geoff Mann; (Deliniquin), also studied Newydd's in-house maintenance service, tenant involvement activities and plans for new developments.

THE GREAT WAR'S UNSEEN ARCHIVES

THE Great War – Unseen Archives, published by Atlantic Publishing and compiled by Robert Hamilton costs £40, and is worth every penny.

This authoritative volume illuminates a momentous period in world history whose ability to prompt impassioned debate and divide opinon continues undimished. The author's account stands out among many others published, thanks to the sheer volume and quality of contemporary material presented-often in facsimile.

The comprehensive narrative includes: More than 1,000 photographs many of them unseen; Over 600 facsimile newspaper cuttings of headlines, articles, photographs and battle plans; a day-by-day chronology and specially drawn maps showing the theatres of war from today's perspective.

It is presented in chapters, year by year,each commencing with an overview of the forthcoming year, including an authoritative account by historian Robert Hamilton.

The major figures such as Haig, Foch, Pershing, Kitchener, Lloyd George, King George V, Hindenburg and Ludenorff naturally take centre stage.

However, the cast list in this human tragedy extends far beyond the senior commanders, to include portraits of well-known characters such as T E Lawrence, Edith Cavell and the Red Baron.

BRIAN LEE

Age Connect drop-in

AGE CONNECT Cardiff and Vale is holding a drop-in information session at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, on Tuesday, October 12 from 10am to 12 noon.

There will be information about the NHS breast, bowel and abdominal aortic aneurysm screening programmes and is an opportunity to ask questions and discuss screening, collect leaflets and screening, merchandise.

No appointment is needed, just come along and have a chat one of the breast screening advisers. Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

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AWARDS CELEBRATE THIRD YEAR OF SUCCESS FOR CARDIFF AND VALE COLLEGE STUDENTS

CARDIFF and Vale College recently took over the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff Bay for its third annual awards evening.

The event attracted nearly 400 people including local business, education providers and the community and 18 students, plus the college's partner organisations, were recognised for their contribution to college life.

The evening began with music from a jazz trio – and art and design, automotive engineering and hairdressing students gave demonstrations of their work. The awards ceremony was hosted by CAVC alumni and BBC Wales presenter Jason Mohammad.

This year also saw a special gift for guests; wooden coasters made by Timber Thinkers. Set up and run by CAVC Carpentry students.

Cardiff and Vale College Principal and Chief Executive Mike James said: "The annual awards are a great reminder of the impact learning has and the opportunities it can create. It also reminds me what a privilege it is to be working in our exciting college."

Winners included Eurofoods founder Shelim Hussain MBE, who won the college's Alumni award. Shelim, who established his first business while studying at the college, said he was both surprised and honoured to receive the award.

Luke Mayor, a 20-year-old electrical apprentice from Dinas Powys, won the Principal's Award for best reflecting the college's values through achievement, attitude and participation in extra-curricular activities.

Luke started off at CAVC on a school link taster course before progressing on to the full-time engineering programme, 'pathways to apprenticeship' course then an apprenticeship with employment at Scenic Services in Newport.

During his time at college, Luke has won the Welsh regional heats to Welsh final of the WorldSkills competition, and will represent the college at the UK WorldSkills finals next month. He has also won Welsh regional heat of Sparks UK's Apprentice of the Year in 2014, before going on to win Sparks UK National Apprentice of the Year.

Luke admitted that he had to be "pushed" when he first came to CAVC, but added that his tutor Geoff Shaw was an inspiration. "If it wasn't for a tutor like Geoff that can encourage a student and see their potential, then all of this would never have happened," he explained.

Another winner was 37-year-old Bismwa Gwom from Cardiff. Bismwa helped set up, and now manages, a pop-up hair and beauty salon in Ely.

Nineteen-year-old Cameron Patterson from Barry won the A Levels award. Cameron moved to Barry from China and is a fluent Mandarin speaker who helped out with the college's Chinese winter and summer schools, and when teachers from other institutions came to visit. He gained excellent GCSE and A Level results at the college and has now progressed to university.

The Creative Industries Award went to Craig Morris (36) from Cardiff. The foundation degree film student was heavily involved in the college's learning company, 'The Film Cohort', making corporate videos for Coca Cola, the Wales Millennium Centre, Literature Wales and others.

Winners of CAVC's 2014 annual awards, including Luke Mayor, who won the Principal's Award, with Principal and Chief Executive Mike James.

Angel Romaeo, a 17-year-old Level 2 Sport student from Cardiff, adds the CAVC Sport and Public Services Award to the bronze medal she won for artistic gymnastics earlier this year at the Commonwealth Games.

Angel combined studying and her gym work, arriving early and taking extra classes to ensure she was ahead of her studies.

The college's entrepreneurship award went to Emma Nicolaou. The 29-year-old beauty therapy student from Barry led a team that won the UK-wide enterprise competition Market Maker 2013 with Chameleon Nails, a bespoke nail colouring service. Emma is now self-employed, running a salon on Barry High Street.

She said: "I'm very excited that I've won an award and I'm amazed by everything the college has put on for us this evening. I've very happy to have won.

"Since leaving college after my course, I set up my own business. It's now in its second week of trading. My business is in the High Street of Barry catering to ladies and gentlemen, offering all different types of beauty treatments to people in the Vale of Glamorgan."

College partner organisations UnLtd, Wales & West Utilities and Lloyds Bank were also celebrated for their innovative approach to work-based learning and efforts on behalf of the college in funding student business start-ups and supporting the CAVC Skills Academy.

Full list of winners: Cameron Patterson, A-levels; Sam Bennett, Aeronautical; Bismwa Gwom, Beauty, Hair and Holistic Therapies; Matt Hanock, Built Environment; Arron Davies, Business and IT; Craig Morris, Creative Industries; Carla Kondera, Education and Training; Mohammad Daemi, Engineering and Environment; Sion Charles, Foundation Studies; Caroline Read, Health, Social Care and Children's Care; Angel Romaeo, Sport and Public Services; Harrison Jankovic, Transport Services; Sean Harrison, Travel, Tourism and Hospitality; Mary Mort, Adult and Community; Amilee Louise Deeley, Apprenticeship; Emma Nicolauo, Entrepreneurship; Peter Griffiths, Higher Education; Gareth Evans, School Link; UnLtd, Business and Partner; Wales & West Utilities, Business and Partner; Lloyds Bank, Business and Partner; Shelim Hussain MBE, Alumni; Luke Mayor, Principal's Award.

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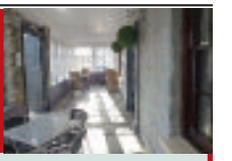

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THE 'DEDICATED FOLLOWERS OF FASHION' AT PONTYCLUN SHOW!

ON a stormy October day, PAG held a fashion show at the Athletic Club in Pontyclun to raise funds for good causes.

PAG is a not for profit company run by volunteers. The main hall was transformed by black chair covers, white bows and silver table decorations, as well as a starry sky stage background provided by Chair Covers & Bows, Coed Cae Lane, Pontyclun.

Tickets were sold out days in advance and many who came at the last minute were disappointed. At £10 for an evening of fashion, entertainment and wine, with a selection of high quality cheeses, they were a bargain. Many local people and friends from further afield filled up the hall.

Mr Chris Bolton was the compere for the evening and a number of local businesses were involved.

All the shops had model volunteers dressed in the latest fashions from bridal wear, mother of the bride and groom, casual wear and a trip down memory lane.

There was entertainment by the Shehrazat Belly dancers, Ella Morgan's cheerleaders, local vocalist Lucie-Anne Davies and for the finale Kerry Sanson had everyone on the dance floor rocking a bit of Zumba.

Local girl Sally Davies was the overall organiser on behalf of PAG and worked tirelessly for several months to bring everything together on this special evening.

Thanks also to everyone at PAG and their families (Ken, Mair, Brendan, Darren, Tom, Cecil, Lydia, Tom and Alexia) for bringing another popular event to the local community in Pontyclun.

All the money raised from the event will go to local good causes. This includes our local schools, who have already benefited from donations this year.

If you are involved in a local group or charity and are interested in receiving funds for a specific purpose or activity, please get in touch with the PAG as soon as possible. Details of beneficiaries will be posted on the PAG website (pontyclunactiongroup.webs.com).

Now everyone in Pontyclun is looking forward to the turning on of our Christmas tree and lights on December 2, our Christmas fayre with a Santa fun run and Santa procession and the St David's Day food fayre in February.

ALEXIA MEI

Baruc Art group hold 40th annual exhibition

(Left to right): Marilyn Morgan (treasurer); Irene Lewis (secretary); Coun Jeff Evans, Jane Hutt AM, John Thomas (chairman).
PHOTOGRAPH by DAVID ALEXANDER

BARUC Art Group held its 40th exhibition at All Saints Church Hall, Park Road, Barry on October 10-11.

The Mayor of Barry, Coun Jeff Evans and Jane Hutt AM were present at the anniversary celebrations along with members and friends, who were impressed by the quality and variety of the art work.

TWO VOLUNTEER GROUPS HOLD MEETINGS PRIOR TO MERGER

A SERIES of events signified the final AGMs for both Vale Centre for Voluntary Services (VCVS) and the Vale Volunteer Bureau (VVB) before the two organisations merge next April to form a new charity.

Rachel Connor, executive director (VCVS) and Alison Steere, director (VVB) reviewed the year 2013/2014 for their respective organisations, and the keynote speaker was Vale AM Jane Hutt.

She commented: "I was delighted to speak at this special AGM, which celebrated the achievements of both VCVS and VVB. Their dedicated service to the Third Sector and communities in the Vale since 1997 has been considerable.

"Being innovative and responding to new needs has been the hallmark of both organisations. I very much look forward to working with the new organisation when VCVS and VVB join forces next year."

The event concluded with inspiring real life stories from volunteers Keith Crabtree and Morgan Rogers; to view Morgan's story, readers can visit: http://bit.ly/1rqD2Mp

There was also a cheque presentation, courtesy of the Dish out Dosh Panel's youth-led grant scheme for grant recipients, who have been successful with youth interest projects and 11 people received their volunteer star awards – with four volunteers receiving Agored Cymru awards in 'Volunteering and Community Participation'.

A VCVS spokesman said: "Twelve Millennium Volunteer (MV) awards were given in recognition of young people's contributions to volunteering. The capacity audience was overwhelmed by the amount of commitment shown by the inspiring people aged from 16 years old who collected their awards on a truly enthralling night."

Morgan Rogers collecting his 50, 100 and 200 hours Millennium Volunteering Certificate.

In and out class at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg

It's been an action-packed time for students, both in and out of doors.

Pupils enjoying the sights in Barcelona.

IT has been a very busy start to the year at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg in Barry.

WELCOME TO YEAR-12!

YEAR-12 pupils have by now settled well into their AS and BTEC courses and have started to contribute to the whole school, with the committees arranging a fun day last month.

The pupils spent two days on a residential course in Goytre Valley, and then there were activities to launch the Welsh Baccalaureate, including a languages day and a volunteering day with staff from the Urdd Sports department and Clare Humphreys from the Vale Volunteering Bureau.

TAITH GOGLEDD CYMRU

AR ddechrau'r tymor bu criw o flwyddyn 11 am benwythnos i ogledd Cymru yng nghwmni Miss Rhian Griffiths a Mr Ithel Davies. Cafodd y disgyblion y cyfle i ymweld â mannau yn ymwneud â'u cwrs Llenyddiaeth Gymraeg.

Ymhlith y lleoliadau oedd Yr Ysgwrn, cartref y bardd Hedd Wyn, Llyn Tryweryn, Tŷ'r Ysgol, cartref y bardd TH Parry Williams a Chofeb Cilmeri, lle lladdwyd Llywelyn ein Llyw Olaf. Taith fythgofiadwy!

NORTH WALES TRIP

AT the start of term, a group from year-11 spent a weekend in north Wales along with Miss Rhian Griffiths and Mr Ithel Davies. The pupils had the opportunity to visit locations related to their Welsh literature course.

Among the places they visited were Yr Ysgwrn, home of the bard Hedd Wyn, Lake Tryweryn, Tŷ'r Ysgol, home of the bard TH Parry Williams and the Cilmeri Memorial, where 'Llywelyn, Our Last Leader' was killed. An unforgettable trip!

BRECON BEACONS

YEAR-9 started the year with a trip to the Storey Arms Outdoor Education Centre in the Brecon Beacons, where they had the opportunity to try out an array of activities.

ARGENTINE VISITORS

RECENTLY, a group of pupils and teachers from St Luke's College in Argentina visited the school.

During their stay they played matches against our rugby and hockey teams, followed by a feast of Welsh cawl back at the school.

GOLD AWARD

DURING September, pupils from year-13 completed the expedition element of their Gold Duke of Edinburgh award in mid Wales, finishing near the idyllic Llyn Brianne.

They coped extremely well during a hard and challenging week, camping for three nights and walking over 50 miles in four days.

The coaches and assessors praised the pupils very highly for their friendliness, spirit and willingness to learn (a large proportion of the group had never done anything like this before). Well done to them all.

SPANISH TRIP

BEFORE the summer holidays, pupils from years-9 to 11 went on a trip to Barcelona organised by the MFL department.

This was an excellent opportunity for the pupils to practice their Spanish with native speakers and also to visit some of the cities most well known sites including Port Aventura, La Ramblas, the Nou Camp (home of Barcelona FC), Parc Güell and the Sagrada Familia. A great time was had by all. ¡Muy bien!

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

(PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING AND LOADING AND PARKING PLACES) (CIVIL ENFORCEMENT) (AMENDMENT) (NO 7) ORDER 2014

1. Notice is given that the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under sections1, 2, 3, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 53 and 124 and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and of all other enabling powers proposes to make an Order, the general effect of which is to prohibit the parking of vehicles in the locations listed in Schedule below.

2. Full details of the proposals, to include a copy of the proposed Order and drawing no (T/14/73/MS) may be inspected at the address shown below during normal office hours and any objection you may have to this proposal must be submitted to the Director of Visible Services & Housing (Ref: ED/HT/MS/IF747) in writing by 7th November 2014 and must contain the grounds upon which you object.

3. Persons objecting to the proposed Order are advised that in view of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 this Council is legally obliged to make any comments received in response to the proposed Order open to public inspection.

The following Traffic Regulation Order is to be amended as follows:

Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places (Civil Enforcement) Order 2013

SCHEDULE 1

Insert into new map schedules AU47 and AU48

Port Road West (Part), Barry – Prohibition of Waiting at Any Time

On the southern side, from a point 4 metres west of the common boundary of properties Ty Ni and the Fuel Station, westwards for a distance of 22 metres.

Pontypridd Road (Part), Barry – Prohibition of Waiting at Any Time

On the north-eastern side, from a point 4 metres northwest of the common boundary of properties 118 and 120, north-westwards for a distance of 29 metres.

Dated this 16th day of October 2014.

M. E. Punter,
Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2014

GORCHYMYN (GORFODI SIFIL) (DIWYGIO) (RHIF 7) (GWAHARDD MANNAU AROS, LLWYTHO A PHARCIO A CHYFYNGU AR FANNAU AROS LLWYTHO A PHARCIO)

1. Hysbysir trwy hyn y bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan adrannau 1, 2, 3, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 53 a 124, a Rhan IV Atodlen 9 Deddf Rheoli Traffig y Ffyrdd 1984 a Rhan 6 Deddf Rheoli Traffig 2004, a phob pŵer galluogi arall, yn gwneud Gorchymyn. Diben cyffredinol y Gorchymyn hwnnw fydd rhwystro cerbydau rhag parcio yn y mannau sydd wedi'u nodi yn yr Atodlen isod.

2. Cewch weld y cynigion llawn, gan gynnwys copi o'r Gorchymyn arfaethedig a llun (T/14/73/MS), drwy fynd i'r cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol. Os oes gennych unrhyw wrthwynebiad i'r cynnig, dylech anfon llythyr at Gyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai (Cyf. ED/HT/MS/IF747) erbyn 7 Tachwedd 2014, gan nodi'ch rhesymau dros ei wrthwynebu.

3. Dylai pawb sy'n gwrthwynebu'r Gorchymyn a gynigiwyd ddeall bod dyletswydd gyfreithiol ar y cyngor hwn, o dan Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol (Hawl i Wybodaeth) 1985, i sicrhau bod pob ymateb a gaiff i'r gorchymyn dan sylw ar gael i'r cyhoedd ei astudio.

Bydd y Gorchymyn Rheoli Traffig canlynol yn cael ei ddiwygio fel a ganlyn:

Gorchymyn (Gorfodi Sifil) (Gwahardd Mannau Aros, Llwytho a Pharcio a Chyfyngu ar Fannau Aros, Llwytho a Pharcio 2013) Cyngor Bro Morgannwg.

ATODLEN 1

Cynhwyser atodlenni AU47 ac AU48 yn y map newydd

Port Road West (Rhan yn unig), Y Barri – Gwahardd Aros ar Unrhyw Adeg

Ar yr ochr ddeheuol, o fan sy'n 4 medr i'r gorllewin o gyd-derfyn eiddo Tŷ Ni a'r Orsaf Danwydd, am 22 medr i gyfeiriad y gorllewin.

Pontypridd Road (Rhan yn unig), Y Barri – Gwahardd Aros ar Unrhyw Adeg

Ar yr ochr ogledd-ddwyreiniol, o fan sy'n 4 medr i'r gogledd-orllewin o gyd-derfyn eiddo 118 a 120, am 29 medr i gyfeiriad y gogledd-orllewin.

Dyddiedig 16 Hydref 2014

M. E. Punter
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai,
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpau, Gwenfô. CF5 6AA.

Diabetes meeting

THE Vale of Glamorgan Diabetes UK Voluntary Group's next meeting is on Tuesday, October 21, in the board room, Llandough Hospital, Penarth, 7.30pm to 9pm

The speaker will be Dr Richard Bracken, and his subject is 'Nutrition and physical exercise in diabetes'.

Maendy YFC choir prepare to compete at Glamorgan YFC county eisteddfod.

Competition time tests the YFC members' versatility

Maendy YFC chairman Heather Jarvis with senior member Laura Thomas.

IT'S been all action at Maendy Young Farmers Club lately, with competitions a plenty for members! On October 6, they competed in the Glamorgan county carcass judging competition at Wern Fabian Farm, Swansea (by permission of Mr Hugh Phillips).

Competitors were required to judge four lamb or beef carcasses respectively, placing them from first to fourth, based on confirmation and fat cover. Maendy members were successful as follows: Tom Rees second in under-26 beef; Heather Jarvis second in under-26 lambs; Beth Jarvis placed second in under-21 lambs and third in under-21 beef.

The next competition was quite different when Glamorgan YFC held its first eisteddfod at Neath Constitutional Club on October 12.

Maendy YFC performed in a variety of vocal competitions from solos, duets and choir to mime, musical, photography and literary pieces.

Maendy achieved excellent results across the day, with members going forward to the Wales YFC eisteddfod next month. Thanks are extended to club leader, Miss Becky Harry, for training the members and for providing piano accompaniment at the competition.

Attention now turns to the annual county stockjudging day taking place on Saturday October 25. This year's competition day will be hosted by neighbouring young farmers club, Wick. Competitors are required to judge a ring of four animals of beef, dairy, lambs or pigs.

The aim is to judge the ring of four animals, placing them in first to fourth position, based on their confirmation and suitability for the modern butchering trade.

Competitors will then proceed to give their reasons in front of a judge within a two minute time constraint.

As always, new members are welcome to come along and find out what the Young Farmers Club is all about! For further information visit www.maendy-yfc.com or email maendy.yfc@gmail.com. You can also 'like' the Maendy YFC Facebook page and follow @MaendyYFC on Twitter.

Nurse Sue gives baby advice... BY ROYAL APPOINTMENT!

SUE JONES.

WHEN nurse Sue Jones went to Windsor Castle to receive an MBE from Prince William, little did she think she would end up giving him advice about one-year-old baby George!

The ABMU Health Board's lead nurse for school health nursing was responsible for co-ordinating the schools MMR vaccination programme during last year's measles outbreak, centred in Swansea and Neath Port Talbot.

She was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June, along with Julie Harvey, ABMU's head of paediatric physiotherapy.

Sue said: "I went to Windsor Castle to receive it from Prince William. I was delighted. He was so lovely. We had a good chat. He asked about my work and even said, '*Perhaps you could give me some advice about getting my young son to do what he should do*.'

"I told him to treasure every moment because George won't be a baby for very long."

Sue began her career as a student nurse in Neath General Hospital in 1972, later working on a children's ward and then qualifying as a midwife.

She became manager of the Neath Port Talbot school health nursing team in 2000 and took up her current ABMU-wide post in 2009.

When her MBE was announced, she said: "I have wonderful support from all the staff in our service and from senior colleagues throughout my career but especially in regard to raising the profile of and taking school health nursing forward.

"I feel blessed after all these years to still be able to say that I absolutely love my job and enjoy coming to work."

She was accompanied at the castle by husband Ken, son Mark – who travelled home from Luxembourg to be there – and daughter Lucy.

Local groups get Lottery pay-out

THE Big Lottery Fund has awarded the Bridgend branch of the Alzheimer's Society £5,000 to improve its building for people living with the disease, while The Pernicious Anaemia Society gets £4,958 to raise awareness of vitamin B12 deficiency.

They were among 71 community-based groups who shared in a £279,724 windfall.

Gareth Williams, Awards for All programme manager for the Big Lottery Fund in Wales, said:

"Awards for All is having a positive impact throughout Wales.

"Money is helping to establish groups, societies and clubs, promoting learning, increasing volunteering opportunities and helping to build stronger communities."

Available in Welsh and English, the application forms can be downloaded from: www.awardsforall.org.uk or by phone on 0845 4 10 20 30.

HALLOWE'EN AT DYFFRYN

DYFFRYN GARDENS is bringing back its annual Welly Week during the October half term. Grab your brightest and most colourful wellies to explore the grounds.

"There will be 10 multi-coloured wellies hidden all over the gardens and house; if you can find them all including the mysterious golden welly you will be in with winning an exciting prize," a spokeswoman said.

"Make it Mondays and 50 things Wednesdays are back too with making autumn leaf crowns on Monday and building your own bird box on Wednesday between 12pm and 3pm.

"Join us after dark on October 31 for a fun-filled Hallowe'en disco in the house. Our Hallowe'en family party will have ghost stories, games and activities as well as pumpkin carving. Wear your spookiest outfit and win a prize if you're the best dressed."

BAND CONCERT

RAF St Athan Voluntary Band 76th annual concert, this Saturday, October 18, at Llantwit Major School Hall (from 7.30pm).

Special guests are Noteworthy Mixed Choir under Musical Director Ryan Wood, accompanied by Rhiannon Williams-Hale. Tickets available from Chris Davis Estate Agent, East Street, Llantwit Major, or telephone 01446 798527.

NEWS FROM FONMON APIARY

Time moves on...but no one has told the bees!

THE year may well be drawing to a close but the bees show little sign of winter adjustment and all colonies are very active.

Thanks to the mild conditions still prevailing, the foragers are bringing in pollen and nectar and the Queens are still laying. This, of course, is quite contrary to recognised beekeeping practice.

To all intents and purposes, the beekeeper should have carried out Varroa treatments. Any feeding that was required will also have been completed; our bees should be forming their winter cluster and foraging should have ceased.

All of the colonies can now be left alone until spring of the following year. However, as I have made clear in previous articles, the weather is the dominant factor in the honeybees world.

Colony activity equates to the expenditure of energy – the nectar and pollen are the ingredients required to provide this energy, so although stores are being created within the hive, the daily consumption by the bees means that said stores are being consumed.

Many parks and gardens still contain plants and flowers that are a ready source of all the bees' requirements, so until we see lower temperatures (i.e. nine degrees centigrade and lower) the bees will still make trips to provide the stores they know they must have to see them through the coming winter.

Here at Fonmon, I have several colonies that are receiving liquid feed; these are colonies that swarmed and require a little assistance from the beekeeper, and as a result they have not yet had any Varroa control applied.Feeding and Varroa control do not go hand in hand; it is one or the other. In my judgement, the feeding comes first, this along with the mild weather is certainly going to help the colony get through the coming winter.

I will treat for Varroa once I consider that the bees have sufficient stores. Why this approach?

Well, without food the bees will certainly die and then, of course, I won't have a Varroa Mite problem. Remember, I still have Queens laying and new bees will be emerging and will require nourishment, the mites will, of course, be carrying out their breeding cycle along with the bees, which means their presence will have to be addressed eventually.

Decisions! Decisions! That's what faces the beekeeper and you will sometimes get it wrong.

Fonmon Apiary has colonies with several supers still in situ; they will be inspected and I will have to make a decision as what I should do.

The storing of equipment that is not required over winter also brings its own problems. The Wax Moth has had a good breeding year and if you do not store things in adequate containers, the moth will certainly take advantage and your equipment will be subject to an attack, possibly rendering it totally unusable when spring comes around.

The beekeeper must become acquainted with all of the enemies of the honeybee and hive components if he/she is to be successful.

This year has been one of our best for some time; the bees will settle and then we will anxiously await the coming spring and hope to see activity from all the overwintered colonies.

HAROLD WILLIAMS

World War Two books donated to libraries

Left to right: Dr Johnathan Hicks; Coun Stuart Egan; Lady Mayor, Carol Hamilton; Gethin Sheppard (librarian); Vale of Glamorgan Mayor, Coun Howard Hamilton; Chris Edwards (chief librarian); Barry Town Mayor, Coun Jeffrey Evans.

A LIMITED edition of *Barry and the Second World War* by Dr Johnathan Hicks has been donated to Vale libraries at a reception hosted by the Mayors of the Vale and Barry, Couns Howard Hamilton and Jeffrey Evans.

A second copy has also been donated to Barry Town Council.

The book is not for sale, but will be available in Barry Library as one of many books and documents in the local studies collection, including Dr Hicks' earlier book on Barry and the Great War.

Coun Stuart Egan, cabinet member for adult services, praised the effort that had gone into the research and the timeliness of the work, as September marked 75 years since the start of the Second World War.

The book gives an insight into the role of local people during the war years and provides many direct accounts of the contributions they made and the way the conflict affected their lives.

It took seven years to research and during the process the author was able to meet and interview veterans and their relatives as well as conducting research using newspapers and local documents.

CHARITY HOG ROAST

THE Vale of Glamorgan Mayor is hosting a charity hog roast this Saturday, October 18, at 7pm at St Athan Community Centre.

There will be live music from Out on Licence plus a silent auction. All proceeds go the Mayor's charities, Barry Beavers and Wales Air Ambulance. Tickets 315 each from the Mayor's office on 01446 709301.

Diesel's journey starts in USA and ends in Barry

Colas Rail-freight Company, based in Cardiff, hired the private sidings of the Barry Tourist Railway to train its drivers recently. The brand new class 70 diesels (below left) are imported from their builders in Erie, Pennsylvania, USA, and come in through Newport and Liverpool Docks. They are 3,820 HP and will be used for freight throughout the UK.

At a weight of 120 t they will not cross over to Barry Island, but can be seen going down to Morrisons to collect lunch with the drivers!

PHOTOGRAPHS by MIKE WILCOCK

BARRY ROTARY CLUB'S INTERNATIONAL LUNCH

ON October 23, the Rotary Club of Barry and the Inner Wheel Club of Barry are organising an 'International Lunch' and the profits will be divided between Vale4Africa and InnerWheel International Charities.

The tickets are £8 each for a three-course lunch in the Bedwas Room of the Barry Memorial Hall, from 12 noon.

Tickets are available from John on 01446 760508, or can be purchased at the door.

'Does Cardiff Airport have the correct strategy?' asks Welsh Tory leader

by GEM REPORTER

A regional Tory AM has expressed his concern after CityJet announced its plans to reduce flights on the Cardiff to Glasgow Airport route.

The decision was taken because of a lack of passengers using the service and will lead to the number of daily flights being cut from three a day to two.

However, the airline told The GEM that it was still committed to the route and that networks were always evolving.

Andrew RT Davies AM, Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, said: "This news is particularly concerning given the fact that the route was only reinstated nine months ago.

"The fact that key airlines are reducing flights on their flagship routes, is extremely worrying, and does not give the impression of a confident and vibrant airport. This latest route withdrawal begs questions about whether the strategy for growth at Wales' state-owned airport is right and whether opportunities for growth, route development and marketing are being properly explored."

But Cardiff Airport managing director Debra Barber pointed out that some CityJet operations had surpassed what the airport had hoped for.

"We are continuing to work closely with CityJet who will operate flights to Paris and Edinburgh throughout the Winter season, both of which exceeded expectations during the first year of operations.

"CityJet has acknowledged Cardiff Airport as a key component in its strategy for UK regional growth and is an important partner for the airport in delivering key routes to and from Wales, with these services being essential for both inbound and outbound travel needs."

Ms Barber added: "Our priority is to return the business to its previous level of success and beyond, with ongoing discussions with our existing and potential new airlines about enhancing the number of destinations on offer.

"We want the people of Wales to be proud of their airport and for them, along with visitors to our country, to have a wonderful experience when using it."

Patrick Lukan, chief commercial officer at CityJet insisted:"Route changes such as Glasgow to Cardiff are all part of the process an airline goes through and networks are constantly evolving.

"We will maintain connections between Scotland and Wales via our Edinburgh route and will continue to serve Paris.

"Underlining the airline's commitment to the region, CityJet was recently announced as one of the sponsors for the Ospreys' 2014/ 15."

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL • CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Listed Building Consent/ Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01093/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: The replacement of existing defective heating pipework running within a stone clad riser that can only be accessed externally
Location:/Lleoliad: United World College of the Atlantic Ltd, St. Donats Castle, St. Donats, Llantwit Major
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade I

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01058/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Construction of a proposed new Sports Hall facility to compliment existing sporting amenities at UWC Atlantic College. Sited adjacent to the existing tennis courts, the proposal involves the demolition of some existing maintenance / storage buildings. The new building shall have a multi-use sports hall, dedicated dance studio, gym, associated changing facilities and storage, student cafe area with kitchen and servery, small student office/reception, and outdoor terrace seating areas to take advantage of coastal views. The proposed building also incorporates No. 68 roof mounted photo voltaic panels.
Location:/Lleoliad: United World College of the Atlantic Ltd, St. Donats Castle St. Donats
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Affecting Sundial at St. Donats Castle, Grade II, Parish Church of St. Donats, Grade I, Churchyard wall of church of St. Donats including railings and gate. Grade II, medieval Cross and associated slab in Churchyard, Grade II, Nicholl-Carne Memorial Cross in churchyard, Grade II cottage against Southeast churchyard wall, Grade II and The Old Rectory, Grade II.

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01095/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed garage/garden store (renewal of permission No. 2009/00828/FUL)
Location:/Lleoliad: Llwyn Rhyddid House, Hensol
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Affecting Llwyn Rhyddid House, Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest / Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01050/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Planning application for change of use from amenity land to the seasonal siting of touring caravans with associated shower/toilet block and additional parking provision
Location:/Lleoliad: Fontygary Holiday and Leisure Park, Rhoose

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01058/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Construction of a proposed new Sports Hall facility to compliment existing sporting amenities at UWC Atlantic College. Sited adjacent to the existing tennis courts, the proposal involves the demolition of some existing maintenance / storage buildings. The new building shall have a multi-use sports hall, dedicated dance studio, gym, associated changing facilities and storage, student cafe area with kitchen and servery, small student office/reception, and outdoor terrace seating areas to take advantage of coastal views. The proposed building also incorporates No. 68 roof mounted photo voltaic panels.
Location:/Lleoliad: United World College of the Atlantic Ltd, St. Donats Castle St. Donats

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01079/RES
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed residential development for 224 new dwellings, associated highways and landscaping
Location:/Lleoliad: Former ITV Studios, Culverhouse Cross

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01089/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Erection of a 10MW solar Photovoltaic system including levelling of land
Location:/Lleoliad: Ports Office, Atlantic Way, Barry

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01108/RES
Proposal:/Cynnig: Redevelopment of caravan site for residential development, with associated open space at Ogmore by Sea Caravan Park
Location:/Lleoliad: Ogmore by Sea Caravan Park, Main Road, Ogmore by Sea

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01129/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Outline application for residential development and associated works (including the demolition of existing structures on site)
Location:/Lleoliad: Mount Sorrel Hotel, Porthkerry Road, Barry

May affect a Public Right of Way/ Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01000/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Construction of a new highway junction (ingress only)
Location:/Lleoliad: Agricultural land to the west of the Llwynhelig Farm and to the North of Cowbridge By-pass, Cowbridge

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01050/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Planning application for change of use from amenity land to the seasonal siting of touring caravans with associated shower/toilet block and additional parking provision
Location:/Lleoliad: Fontygary Holiday and Leisure Park, Rhoose

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01155/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Conversion of a barn to a three bedroom dwelling
Location:/Lleoliad: Brocastle Barn Cottage, Colwinston

Departure from Development Plan/ Gwyro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01050/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Planning application for change of use from amenity land to the seasonal siting of touring caravans with associated shower/toilet block and additional parking provision
Location:/Lleoliad: Fontygary Holiday and Leisure Park, Rhoose

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 16 October, 2014

M. Goldsworthy
Operational Manager Development & Building Control,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

NEWS IN BRIEF

Free half-term holiday camp

THE Vale Council-led Barry Communities First will be hosting a free holiday camp at half-term for children aged 7-13 years, with arts and crafts, music workshops run by Raw Rock Academy, and a trip to the Wales Millennium Centre to watch *Captain Flynn and the Pirates*, in addition to a backstage tour.

It will be held from 10am-2pm on October 28-29 and at 10am-4:15pm on October 30 at Gibbonsdown Children Centre, Ramsey Road, Barry for children living in the Barry Communities First area or attending Oak Field Primary, Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant, Palmerston, Colcot, Jenner Park, Cadoxton, Gladstone, Holton Road primaries, Bryn Hafren School or Barry Comprehensive.

Contact 01446 709432, email *communitiesfirst@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk* or *www.BarryCommunities*First.org for full details.

Exhibition

On October 11, Art Central in Barry hosted a private view of the touring exhibition 'Journey: Response to Place,' created by Sculpture Cymru.

The 12 artists involved created work in response to a specific Welsh site that has a significant meaning to them.

The pieces were then placed in the environment and photographed.

Sculpture Cymru was initiated in 2000 and includes some of the most established sculptors in Wales.

The exhibition is on show in Art Central gallery until November 8 and is open to the public, from 10am to 4pm Monday to Saturday; entry is free.

NOT JUST A PUB, BUT A SHOP TOO...

'Pint of beer and a loaf of bread please barman!'

Landlord Arthur O'Leary and 'Vale Pub is the Hub' co-ordinator Helen Watts at the Cross Inn, Llanblethian.

THE Cross Inn, Llanblethian, which won a competition to have its entrance redesigned by TV home styling consultant Laurence Llewelyn Bowen, now has a shop – which landlord Arthur O'Leary set up with the help of one of Prince Charles's favourite projects, Pub is the Hub, and the Vale Council.

Arthur, who has been behind the bar of the 17th century pub for five years, decided to open a village shop as a service to customers after discovering that he could get financial help through Pub is the Hub.

It has been running in England for several years but was only introduced to Wales in 2012 by north Wales-based rural regeneration agency Cadwyn Clwyd who piloted it in Denbighshire, and has since rolled it out to eight counties across Wales, including the Vale of Glamorgan.

The Cross Inn was one of the first to take advantage with a small grant of £500 from the council's Creative Rural Communities scheme for a cabinet to display the shop's stock.

It is paid for through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) through the Welsh Government's Rural Development Plan and is part of a three-year plan to revitalise rural communities and their economies.

Cadwyn Clwyd rural services officer Helen Roberts, who oversees the scheme throughout Wales, said: "This is exactly the sort of community project that Pub is the Hub is all about.

"It's so important for village communities to have focal points like schools, churches and chapels and pubs and shops too and this is a wonderful example with the pub stepping in to run a shop.

"We're also very proud that Cadwyn Clwyd, who launched the first Pub is the Hub scheme in Wales in Denbighshire, has now seen it spread to seven other areas of Wales, Flintshire, Conwy, Gwynedd, Anglesey, Ceredigion, Bridgend and Vale of Glamorgan.

"This is a pet project of Prince Charles and one that he has been monitoring closely since it began."

Arthur said: "My father was from Cork and my mother from Bantry and in Ireland very often country pubs have a little shop attached and I thought it would be useful to do that here.

"Hopefully it's a good excuse to pop in for a pint and to see just what we do offer here in terms of a traditional welcome with good food and good beer and we're dog friendly too so you can even bring your dog into the bar and the shop even has some doggy treats to encourage pets to bring their masters in."

Helen Watts, Pub is the Hub Co-ordinator for the Vale, said: "What Arthur has done is to provide a small community shop for local people where they can pick up staples without having to go into Cowbridge and worry about parking, so it's reducing congestion as well."

Bringing the harvest home on Waterfront

Alun Cairns MP and Coun Pamela Drake with local volunteers.

HARVEST celebrations at Barry Waterfront Centre last weekend were given a boost by some important visitors in the form of local Vale of Glamorgan councillors Pamela Drake and Chris Elmore, Jane Hutt AM and Alun Cairns MP.

Barry Uniting Church, who run the centre, threw open the gates of their community garden and building and welcomed local people to have a look around and put forward ideas to help shape a new permanent church and community centre to be developed on their land at Heol y Llongau next to the Waterfront Medical Centre.

New ministers Revs Carole and Phil Challis were also on hand to meet local residents and hear their points of view.

"I was delighted to join Barry Uniting Church and members of the community at the Waterfront to hear more about progress with Phase II of this exciting development and to congratulate them on all that they have achieved so far," said Jane Hutt.

Coun Chris Elmore (Castleland), Revs Carole and Phil Challis and local volunteers.

Mr Cairns commented: "It was very pleasing to see such a good turnout and to hear some very forward thinking plans about future provisions for congregations to meet."

The garden is open on the first Saturday of every month from 10am to 3pm for anyone who wants to follow the progress of the project, and regular updates are also posted on the Barry Waterfront Centre Facebook page.

Barry campaigner's aim is to ensure Haiti is not forgotten

LOCAL campaigner Mr Godfrey Knight explains why he is planning more events in support of the people of Haiti:

The earthquake in Haiti claimed over 200,000 lives. Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere. Unemployment runs at 80 per cent – street traders earn just £30 a month.

Haiti is going to take 20 years to restructure. Lots of children eat food every other day.

Haiti Hospital Appeal, a charity started by two British drama students, has built a spinal care unit for people injured in the quake and they recently opened a hospital. This campaign supports that charity.

Mr Frank McKinney is a philanthropist who lives in nearby Miami, USA. He builds houses for people who live in poverty.

He says that the Haitian people are a faith driven people and often quotes Saint Luke, who said that 'those people who had been entrusted with much – then much would be expected'.

In that spirit, the houses Mr McKinney constructs are known as Earth Ships and cost from around £7,000. Food can even be grown in them as well, making them fully sustainable.

He said: "We build a house which includes the basics – electricity, sewerage and water, and the people flourish."

Money raised in future from our campaign will be donated to the above charities.

The Barry Male Voice Choir will in the near future host an evening's entertainment at Holy Trinity Church, Trinity Street, Barry.

My thanks to the public who have been very supportive, and Jane Hutt, the honorary patron of this campaign.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D848:

- **£2,000:** 410873.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £2,500 was not won this week.**
- **£10:** .897310, 743014, 290842, 781889, 582653, 300904, 697372, 838235, 864836, 127183, 122344, 573359, 862795, 119452, 293496, 753725, 990724, 454842, 736375, 1337.
- **£5:** 111515, 208488, 262755, 488021, 761642, 510162, 706816, 384600, 496835, 362798, 431394, 330933, 376788, 121541, 534695, 468293, 225202, 749463, 283696, 319518, 157000, 717344, 149485, 113040, 227762, 434927, 522941, 111132, 217436, 723058, 476458, 916336, 795790, 935270, 289349, 743530, 291696, 560928, 343717, 611541, 244740, 519430, 207753, 941688, 103592, 862396, 171761, 174230, 684148, 177941, 149277, 142919, 233166, 782343, 551489, 816448, 157640, 123303, 411204, 1035.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

Students to vote on youth mayor in the Vale

BETWEEN October 13 and 17, two candidates from the Vale Youth cabinet will be going head to head to become the first youth mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Tom Chandler, aged 17 from Stanwell High School and Emily Peters, aged 15 from St Richard Gwyn, are the two candidates hoping to become the first youth mayor. Both have filmed their manifestos which will be played to young people aged 11 to 25 during Local Democracy Week.

The Vale of Glamorgan Youth Service has arranged a series of elections to take place in a number of schools, youth clubs and youth organisations across the Vale. All details can be found on *www.swoosh.me.uk*.

Coun Chris Elmore, cabinet member for children's services, said: "It's fantastic that the Local Democracy Week campaign this year will focus on the election of the Youth Mayor for the Vale of Glamorgan.

"This is the climax to over two years hard work by young people, the Youth Service and the Vale Youth Forum in developing a plan to ensure young people have a real voice on services across the Vale."

The Youth Mayor will be announced at the Vale Youth Forum meeting on Monday, October 20 at the Civic Offices, Barry.

NURSERY FUN DAY

THE St Donats Nursery is holding a fun day this Saturday October 18 in Llantonian Hall from 3pm to 5pm.

It includes face painting, hat/crown making, apple bobbing, pin the wart on the witch, lucky dip, drinks and homemade cakes.

Sensitive Staffy Lucy Lou longs for a quiet life

LUCY LOU is a two-year old Staffy who, once she forms a bond with her owner, is a loyal dog, but is sensitive and will take time to settle in initially.

Having had lots of practice at the rehoming centre, she is now mixing quite nicely with other dogs, and could live with another calm dog in the home. Lucy Lou will suit a quiet home where she can settle in her own time, and children will need to be 14 or over.

Potential owners will need to have had experience with dogs previously, and will need to visit the centre mutliple times to get to know her.

The volunteers have fallen in love with her and, like the staff, just want Lucy Lou to find her 'forever home'.

If you can offer Lucy Lou a home, please call us on 01656 725219, or pop in to Dogs Trust Bridgend. We are open 12-4pm every day except Monday.

Linda Feagan
Supporter Relations Officer, Dogs Trust Bridgend
linda.feagan@dogstrust.org.uk
01656 728923.

Must have book on the buses

SOUTH WALES BUSES AND COACHES REMEMBERED
by Andrew Wiltshire £17

THIS is Andrew Wiltshire's sixth volume devoted to buses and includes 80 pages of full colour photographs going back to the 1960s here in south Wales.

It features local company fleets, as well as coaches and non PRV vehicles. We also have detailed information about municipal and independent buses.

Each page has detailed text on each individual vehicle, giving date built, withdrawn and some have more information on their demise.

For the bus enthusiast this is a 'must have' book and I spent many happy hours identifying the locations here in Wales.

For myself, I would have liked an index to find buses by make and also the location of the photographs.

For the enthusiast this will make an ideal present as a new volume to add to a collection.

MIKE WILCOCK

Hywelians hold a 'thanksgiving' this December

IN 2006, the Hywelian Guild marked its centenary and to celebrate this, the Bridgend branch of the Hywelians held an Advent service of Thanksgiving in Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, led by Canon Derek Belcher followed by a Christmas lunch in the Bear Hotel.

This proved very popular and since then, it has become an annual event. This year's service will be held on Tuesday, December 2 at 11.30am. If any Hywelian would like to join us for the service, they will be most welcome. Lunch needs to be booked. Please contact me for details.

The Bridgend branch has been active since 1953, originally meeting for lunch twice a year with about 20-25 members. Our members now come from Cardiff to Port Talbot with several from Cowbridge and Llantwit Major.

Since 1996 we have held an Advent service in various churches in the Vale and Bridgend borough but since 2006 we have remained in Cowbridge.

We also have a summer evening supper and a spring lunch in various venues across the area, most recently in Cottrell Park Golf Club.

We welcome new members; contact Pat Parry (secretary Bridgend branch Hywelians) on 01656 784211 or email patparry@greyholme.com.

Now Lee has his eyes on a world title...

ABOVE: Lee Selby pictured with his brother Andrew and Coun Gwyn John at Jenner Park Stadium.

BARRY-BORN boxer Lee Selby has taken a big step towards his dream of a world title by defeating Joel Brunker on Saturday, October 11.

He could now fight for the IBF featherweight world title against current holder, Russia's Evgeny Gradovich, who defends his title against challenger Jayson Velez in November.

Selby, who spent some time training at Barry's Jenner Park Stadium this summer, dominated the fight before the referee called a stop in the ninth round of the world title eliminator.

Coun Gwyn John, who watched the fight, said: "Lee was absolutely fantastic; what a performance. Everyone in Barry and Wales can be proud of him. He is a great ambassador for the Vale.

"I met Lee a few months ago to wish him well, and watching him tonight he showed us just how good he is. I am delighted for him, and I will be there to watch him win the world title. Good luck, Lee! Another performance like that and the title will be yours."

Hockey teams left frustrated after losses

BOTH Penarth Hockey Club sides were left with a feeling of frustration after the latest round of matches in the Davis Wood Hockey League matches, but the Second XI in particular believed that it could have been them - and not their opponents - walking away with the points.

A couple of hours after the 1st XI suffered their own 0-3 reverse against Cardiff University 'A', the seconds took to the Barry Sports Centre pitch for the first of eight seasonal fixtures against old rivals Whitchurch.

This encounter saw the Vale side taking on the second of the visitors' four sides in the De Cymru 2 division and was always going to be a tough one, even before Penarth were affected by the absence of key players, including both regular goalkeepers.

The hosts started brightly, despite the unusually late push back, but failed to take advantage of early pressure and allowed Whitchurch to remain in the game. Their profligacy was then punished midway through the half, when the visitors struck on the break and, despite several fine stops by emergency 'keeper Graeme Jones, the tide quickly turned in favour of the Cardiff side as two further goals took the interval scoreline to 0-3.

The score, however, did not reflect the balance of play, with Penarth more than holding their own and keen to strike back early in the second period.

That desire was soon sated as a quick exchange of passes from deep in their own half allowed the home side to reduce the deficit as Dave Watkins fed Tom Parkinson and the frenetic forward slotted coolly home.

Penarth briefly appeared to be in the ascendancy but, once again, the inability to create chances – and a number of penalty corner 'shouts' that failed to come their way – allowed Whitchurch to resist pressure and, eventually, turn the game back their way as a mishit cross from the far left of the Penarth 'D' somehow found the back post before deflecting over the line.

Needing to find three goals to at least secure a draw that was the minimum their endeavours deserved, Penarth pushed forward through the creative James Davies and Sam Salisbury, but found that their goalmouth efforts failed to attract the good fortune being enjoyed at the opposite end.

Despite some determined defending from Zbig Sobierserski, Ian Smith, Craig Llewellyn and Paul Roberts, Whitchurch literally enjoyed 'the rub of the green' as Jones was beaten three further times before the final whistle to leave the result at an unrepresentative 1-7 in favour of the visitors.

With their goal difference battered, Penarth are now at the tail-end of a three-way tie for seventh place in the division and will need to ensure full points from forthcoming games against weaker opposition.

League games continue this Saturday, with the 1st XI on the road against second-placed Hereford while the seconds travel to Treforest to take on another of the multiple Whitchurch sides.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability. Training takes place on the artificial turf at Barry Sport Centre every Wednesday, with the juniors in action between 6-7pm and seniors between 7-8pm.

Further information can be obtained from club secretary Dave Stevens via: d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk.

CL

Who wants to build what, and where in the Vale?

Waterstone Homes & Action for Children – **Ardwyn, Penyturnpike Road, Dinas Powys** – Demolition of existing buildings, construction of 17 dwellings and associated works.

Mr Xavier Rush – **Barns at West Aberthaw Farm, Aberthaw** – Conversion of redundant barns to provide four residential units.

Mr Geoff Walsh – **Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust, University Hospital Llandough, Penlan Road, Llandough** – Application to vary Condition 18 of planning permission 2012/00652/FUL to include new plans in relation to amended hard and soft landscaping.

Mr Gary Hughes – **Rear of 22 Romilly Road, Barry** – Proposed two storey retail unit.

Persimmon Homes – **Leckwith Road, Llandough** – Vary Condition 3 of planning permission 2013/00632/FUL, residential development to allow for site clearance and landfill to commence on site before the completion of traffic calming measures.

Dr Frederick James Evans – **Colhugh Villa, Flanders Road, Llantwit Major** – Installation of a sectional timber building.

Mr John Homfray – **Agricultural land to the west of the Llwynhelig Farm and to the north of Cowbridge bypass, Cowbridge** – Construction of a new highway junction (ingress only).

Mr and Mrs D M Rees – **Coach House Farm, Michaelston-le-Pit** – Application for erection of supplementary dairy building and two feed silos.

Mr Darryn Dixon – **13 Fforest Drive, Barry** – Conversion of garage into an additional room.

Mr Anthony Williams – **85 Lavernock Road, Penarth** – Proposed new 'eco' friendly bungalow at rear of 85 Lavernock Road, Penarth.

Mr and Mrs G Gibson – **Broughton House, Broughton** – Retrospective application for retention of log store, tractor and mower shed in grounds of Broughton House.

Fontygary Parks Ltd – **Fontygary Holiday and Leisure Park, Rhoose** – Planning application for change of use form amenity land to the seasonal siting of touring caravans with associated shower/toilet block and additional parking provision.

Mr Andrew Stokes – **38 Colcot Road, Barry** – Erection of two storey side extension.

Mr and Mrs T Hackett – **49 Penlan Road, Llandough** – Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 2014/00695/FUL to allow five rooflights at high level within coach house.

Mr and Mrs P G Mayze – **The Croft, Sigingstone** – Conversion of existing outbuilding.

Mr Howard Davies – **Land at Woodham Road, Barry** – Modification to Sunrise Renewables planning permission 2008/01203/FUL.

Mr and Mrs J Lillywhite – **21 Partridge Road, St Athan** – Landscaping of rear garden and provision of new means of enclosure.

Domino's Pizza – **Tropical Tandoor, 33-34 Windsor Terrace, Penarth** – Installation of replacement extraction and ventilation equipment and associated external alterations.

Mr Geraint Morgan – **Ffos y Crydd Farm, Peterston super Ely** – Utilise flat roof as balcony.

Mr D Caddy – **Dunster Cottage, 18 South Road, Sully** – Proposed two storey extension to rear.

Mr Gordon Hadfield – **Swanbridge beach front (outside the Seashore Grill Restaurant), Sully** – Proposed replacement refreshment kiosk and the construction of new toilet facilities for general public use.

Mr Gordon Hadfield – **The Foreshore, Spinney Caravan Park, Swanbridge, Sully** – Emergency repair works to the existing coastal cliff rock face.

Mr P Dowdeswell – **Plot adjacent 8 Cliff Street, Penarth** – Proposed two bedroom house including new self contained access to first floor flat (Flat 2).

SA Brain and Company Ltd – **Tynewydd Inn, 103 Tynewydd Road, Barry** – Demolition of derelict outbuilding situated to the rear of the public house in the corner of the site.

Mr and Mrs D Evans – **Penn Onn Farm, Llancarfan** – Outline planning application for removal of redundant agricultural buildings and construction of three residential dwellings.

Ms Alison Tarrant – **1 Kymin Terrace, Penarth** – Replacement of ground floor and first floor windows to front elevation with new double glazed timber windows, as close to originals as possible.

Bellway Homes Wales – **Former ITV Studios, Culverhouse Cross** – Proposed residential development for 224 new dwellings, associated highways and landscaping.

Lightsource SPV76 Ltd – **Treguff Farm, St Mary Church, Cowbridge** – Installation and operation of a solar farm.

Mr Guy Frankling – **13 Windsor Terrace, Penarth** – Rear garage with first floor office.

Mr Malik Abdul Latif Amar – **22 Pantycelyn Road, Llandough** – Conversion of garage to habitable room and change flat roof to pitched roof on garage.

Mr D and Mrs R Lewis – **10/11 Esplanade Buildings, Friars Road, Barry Island** – Change of use from A1 to mixed use A1/A3 shop and coffee shop, with associated works including layout changes within the site, and works to update and improve the external appearance of the site.

Ms Debra Hayes – **45 Blackberry Drive, Barry** – Use of additional room in place of garage.

Mrs Cristiana Arcieri – **Brookside, Boverton, Llantwit Major** – Proposed side balcony.

Mr and Mrs A N Renwick – **Cattwg Cottages, Llancarfan** – Conversion of one half of house to separate dwelling.

Associated British Ports – **Ports Office, Atlantic Way, Barry** – Erection of a 10mw solar photovoltaic system including levelling of land.

Mr John Donkin – **4 White House, Barry** – To construct a conservatory at rear of property.

Mr William Glyn Thomas – **The Croft, Higher End, St Athan** – Proposed orangery extension to side of existing building.

Mr and Mrs David Pearns – **Tynewydd y Bryn, Peterston super Ely** – New roof conversion to garage to provide ancillary accommodation.

Mr Giles Parker – **Llwyn Rhyddid House, Hensol** – Proposed garage/garden store (renewal of permission no. 2009/00828/FUL).

Bellway Homes Ltd – **ITV Wales, The Television Centre, Culverhouse Cross** – Proposed demolition.

Mr and Mrs Smith – **1 Orchard Rise, Penarth** – Conservatory extension to rear.

Mr Christos Tsakiris – **3 Llwyn Passat, Portway Marina, Penarth** – Proposed balcony to front elevation.

Mrs E Pegg – **1 Whitcliffe Drive, Penarth** – Extension to existing garage.

Rashmika Spv1 Limited – **Land adjacent to Sutton Mawr Farm, Barry** – Solar farm.

Mr Mark Ridgeway – **16 Parklands, Corntown** – Store to rear of garage (resubmission of 2014/00545/FUL).

Mr J and Mrs K Richardson – **Land at the rear of Amberley House, Llantwit Road, Wick** – Erection of one two-storey detached dwelling and detached double garage.

Mr Andy Wood – **21 Meliden Road, Penarth** – Infill single storey ground floor extension to rear of property; change main roof from hip type, to gable ended dual pitch, with flat roof dormer to rear elevation.

Mr and Mrs B Chubb – **136 Fontygary Road, Rhoose** – To raise roof line to accommodate dormer bedrooms (two ensuite) to first floor, to extend kitchen to rear of bungalow and general alterations.

Mr Gary Powell – **4 Paget Road, Penarth** – First floor rear extension.

Mr Graham Oddy – **Maesydd Farm, Llangan** – Proposed glazed elongated walkway (forming link between existing buildings).

Aberthin Village Hall Committee – **Aberthin Village Hall, Aberthin Lane, Aberthin** – Erection of single storey extension to provide additional storage space. Erection of glazed enclosure to existing entrance and replacement of stepped external approach with wheelchair accessible ramp.

Mr Rod Young – **3 Craig yr Eos Place, Ogmore By Sea** – Proposed garage with living accommodation above.

Mr and Mrs Trezise – **54 Longmeadow Drive, Dinas Powys** – Removal of existing single storey garage and store to side, along with conservatory to rear; construction of two storey rear/side extension plus single storey porch and associated external works.

Mr Payne – **19 Redbrink Crescent, Barry** – Erection of an orangery style conservatory to the side elevation.

Mr Phil Beaman – **Cemetery Approach off Barry Road, Barry** – The site is proposed to be laid out as public open space with an outdoor classroom area, refurbished air raid shelter and nature conservation areas.

Mr Wayne Rogers – **125 Phyllis Street, Barry** – Two storey side extension to consist of kitchen and sun room to ground floor and master bedroom with ensuite to first floor.

Mr and Mrs Evans – **Sheepcourt Farm, Bonvilston** – Proposed front pitched dormer to increase the headroom and usable space within the existing first floor room.

Miss Laura Powell – **Land south of the railway line, Trem Echni, Rhoose** – Removal of condition nos 3, 4 and 5 of 2012/00937/FUL.

Dr Nimish Shah – **Churchfields, 46 Village Farm, Bonvilston** – Single storey side extension and first floor extension over garage.

Mr David Hill – **Greenfields, Llanblethian** – T2, 8m crown reduction to Ash tree; T3, remove White Willow; T4, 3m crown reduction and remove epicormics to Ash tree.

Mr Paul Thomas – **Pump House, Sigingstone** – 40-50 per cent reduction (pollard) of Eucalyptus

THE BARRY DARTS LEAGUE ROUND-UP

IN this week's games, the Billy Ghosts maintained their position at the top of the league with another convincing win at home to the Loungers.

Mark Driscoll hit a 180 in their 18-3 win. Mariners 66 moved into second place with a very convincing 17-4 away win against the Tynewydd Inn.

The Runways moved into third place with a big 19-2 away win against the Hell Raisers.

The BFC Allsorts followed up their win against last year's league champions, with an impressive win over last season's runners-up. They came through to beat the Cwm Talwg 12-9.

The Poachers bounced back from last week's defeat by beating the Park Weasels 16-5 and the Wanderers had a 13-8 away victory against the Raiders.

Teams are reminded that this Friday is the annual presentation dance. Teams' prepaid tickets will be available on the door. Further tickets can be purchased for £2 each.

All teams are encouraged to support the evening and any raffle prizes donated would be greatly appreciated.

RL

Bridge results

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan bridge club:

October 6, Claret Jug competition (handicapped): 1st Hilary Morgan & Lou Edwards, 2nd Anne Hughes & Trish Roe, 3rd Sara Bartlett & Helen Barrie.

October 13: 1st Tony Disley & Kevin Maddox 74.03%, 2nd Marjorie Morris & Linda Pinnock 61.36% 3rd Simon & Debbie Richards 60.71%.

LE

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£170,000

Thistle Close, Barry
- Extended, Three Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Spacious, Versatile Lliving Space
- West End Location

£350,000

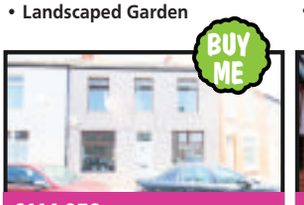
Clos Y Fulfran, Barry
- Spacious Family 5 Bedroom Home
- Driveway for Off Road Parking and Garage
- Landscaped Garden

£125,000

Glan Y MOR, Barry
- Ground Floor Apartment with Garden Area
- Allocated Private Parking
- No Forward Chain

£75,000

Weston Court, Barry
- Nicely Decorated
- Off Road Parking
- No Forward Chain



£114,950

Vale Street, Barry
- Two Bed Terrace
- West End Location
- No Chain

£485,000

Park Road, Barry
- 4 Bedroom Family Home
- Driveway for Off Road Parking
- Truly Massive Garage

£210,000

Blodyn Y Gog, Barry
- 3 Bedroom Detached Home
- Cul-de-Sac Location
- Detached Garage and off Road parking

£155,000

Merioneth Place, Barry
- Semi-Detached Dormer-Bungalow
- 4 Bedrooms
- Garage next to the Property

£125,000

Lydstep Road, Barry
- 3 bedroom Semi Detached House
- Garage and off Road parking
- No Chain and Reduced Price

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homes4u HOTLINE 01446 709840

To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at
HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
or apply in writing to:
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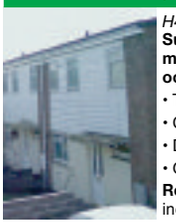
Visible Services and Housing
Civic Offices Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or
Newydd Housing Association
121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

AMROTH COURT, BARRY



H4U reference 200480
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

Rent £104.28 per week including water charges

ANEURIN ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 105264
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Three-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Enclosed rear garden

Rent £91.89 per week

BUTTRILLS WALK, BARRY

H4U reference 202995
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

Rent £105.82 per week including water charges

CAWLEY PLACE, BARRY

H4U reference 204383
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

Rent £104.87 per week including water charges

DALE COURT, BARRY (2)

H4U reference 206850
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- 2 x three-bed houses
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

Rent £101.92 per week including water charges

GLOUCESTER CLOSE, BARRY

H4U Reference 105252
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Three-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Enclosed rear garden

Rent £91.89 per week

GWYN JAMES COURT, PENARTH

H4U Reference 956584
Suit for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets
- Studio apartment
- First floor (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Scheme co-ordinator
- Communal door/gardens

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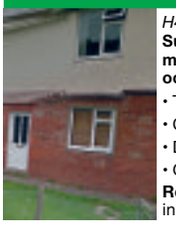

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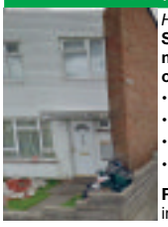

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Porthcawl clubs in action!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 44

Early relief arrived as Skidmore took advantage to edge Porthcawl back in front with a penalty at 6-8, before the returning Ian O'Keefe came on at lock for Porthcawl, immediately providing his own tidal surge as he drove fully 30 metres with tacklers hanging from his back.

With the Seaweeds scrum now shored up and the match entering its final phase, a Porthcawl scrum 30 metres out proved crucial, as Owen fed a short ball to Porthcawl's man of the match Jake Thomas, who cut back inside with a great angle, to flatfoot the defence and scorch over for a great try for 6-13, Skidmore's conversion drifting wide.

With five minutes of the match remaining, Owen proceeded to see red as Cefn pressed in search of an equalising score, getting his marching orders for lashing out at an opponent.

All the pressure was now on Porthcawl to hold out a man short, and Cefn had their tails up going into the final minute of injury time.

Cometh the hour, cometh the man as Seaweeds scrum half Connor Rees, who had a great all round match, stole the ball from under Cefn's noses at the back of a scrum 10 metres from Porthcawl's line and fed Thomas who handed on to Gareth Rees and finally to Skidmore on halfway.

The full back's kick ahead and sheer pace saw him win the race to the touchdown for the match-securing try, in a move that covered fully 90 metres of the pitch, the highlight of an otherwise below par afternoon.

Substitute Sam Parker, on the pitch for only two minutes at the end, coolly slotted the conversion for a 6-20 scoreline to the visitors.

So a win in the end and the players eventually deserved a pat on the back for pulling out the stops but Porthcawl will need to work on a number of areas prior to the visit of Nantyffyllon to South Road on Saturday.

PAUL FIELDING

PORTHCAWL YOUTH RFC 12 YSTRADGYNLAIS YOUTH 24

Porthcawl expected a hard fixture from a 'Ystrad' team brimming in confidence after two 40-plus point wins.

They soon lived up to expectations as almost from the first whistle they scored an unconverted try. From the restart the Swansea Valley team once again pressured the Porthcawl defence and despite some heroic tackles from the home team they conceded a converted try to give a 12-0 lead to 'Ystrad'.

Galvanised by this the young Seaweeds regrouped and from good forward play Tom Mathews drove over the line to score between the posts, converted by Jack Power.

The second half restart was a continuation of the first with both teams playing some good rugby. It was Porthcawl who broke this deadlock from an unconverted try from Sam Comley to tie the scores at 12-12. From this Ystrad raised their game and with only 10 minutes left they scored two tries and one conversion to win the game by a flattering 24-12.

One absentee from the Porthcawl team was first aider Teg Lewis who passed away last week. We all at Porthcawl RFC send our condolences to his family.

CW

KENFIG HILL UNDER-9S 2 PORTHCAWL RFC UNDER-9S 6

Away to Kenfig Hill on a warmish autumnal morning - what better way to make use of such a glorious day than play rugby!

The Mules always provide very well prepared teams at this welcoming club and this was to be no exception. This was probably physically the biggest team we had played so far and this probably was our undoing.

Kenfig Hill ran in far too many tries in the first half with little or no resistance at times and we were 7-2 down at halftime.

In the second half we were a lot better in the tackle area, and when we had the ball we looked more like the team we know we are; good support off the tackle, better organisation and perhaps more importantly belief.

The second half ended 5-4, giving our hosts a very well deserved 12-6 win.

For those following this team you will probably have noticed a bad habit of very poor starts to games, which give us mountains to climb if winning was all we are interested in. We spoke about it before the game and didn't deliver.

Much more purpose and desire are clearly needed and from that our confidence will grow.

Captain's comment: "My stand out player of the match was Max Williams, scoring four tries and making lots of tackles. Max plays the game hard and fair and we (the team) all need to play that way."

Try scorers: Max Williams (4), Elliot Sadd, Rory Lampard.

JP

UNDER-8s - KENFIG HILL 13, PORTHCAWL 7 & PORTHCAWL 3 YSTRADGYNLAIS 1 (LIBERTY STADIUM)

It was a great day and rugby was a winner as we played with smiles on our faces.

In our first game we lost away to Kenfig Hill but we played out of our skins, with the whole team pulling together in attack and defence.

Rose set the pace scoring quickly and always running with a smile on her face, and who also won the award for top tagger charging up in defence, leading as a defensive captain and not letting their attack move forward.

Kenfig scored some great tries to take a lead but Theo and Dewi struck back, both scoring three tries apiece in quick succession, putting in some great footwork and speed to cross.

Theo built on his performances from last week, showing up well in attack and defence and deservedly picking up clubman award for making a difference to the team. Dewi was awarded top try scorer for a great cameo appearance.

We have asked Dexter to be defensive captain and charge forward in the line which he did time and time again and ran strong into the gaps, picking up outstanding performance for achieving his personal objectives.

Although I have mentioned a few players the whole team really played well and they are starting to gel together nicely; a few more games and I think we will be driving forward as the skill levels continue to increase - and then look out.

Try scorers: Theo (3), Dewi (3), Rose. Awards: top tagger - Rose, closely followed by Theo and Lex; clubman for best effort - Dexter; clubman for making a difference to the team - Theo; top try scorer - Dewi.

The Ospreys experience was one for the scrapbook for the 10 lucky players who graced the field at halftime at the Ospreys v Blues game against Ystradgynlais in front of over 10,000 people.

The build up to halftime was great with the team talk just about enjoying the experience and using skills they had learnt to calm some of the nerves.

The game was fast and furious as the teams were hell-bent on squeezing as much playing time as possible and they not only played their hearts out for themselves but for the club and especially their teammates who missed out, and of course their proud families on the sidelines.

With only seven minutes game time we quickly got up to speed and tagged Ystradgynlais out straight away. We were on the front foot hunting as a pack which allowed Dewi Hooper to break free, sidestepping his way through the traffic and then racing in for our first try right in front of the parents with a number of free passes in the build up.

At the restart we again tagged out the opposition and this time after great team build up the little pocket rocket ran forward (not backwards or sideways) and sidestepped his way through on two occasions - well done Ryan Timms.

Ystradgynlais replied with a well worked try but we continued to peg them on their line with all players having a run and an opportunity to show off their skills.

I feel very proud of you all for both games and you all did your club and coaches proud, with some of the kids even keeping the grass stuck to their boots as a souvenir to go with their names in the programme.

Thank you Ospreys for a great day that we won't forget.

ROB HOOPER (coach under-8s)

Gareth Rees hands off a Cefn Cribwr defender.

Jordan Skidmore crosses the try line for his first try, in what proved a hard-fought battle for Porthcawl RFC against Cefn Cribwr, the Seaweeds emerging victorious by 20 points to 6.
PICTURES BY TRACEY WILLIAMS

Porthcawl Bridge Club

THE annual charity pairs competition was held this month, with Keith Davison and Tony Haworth winning the trophy in a tight-fought contest.

The trophy was donated many years ago by the late Marie Ratcliffe, who was not only a prominent local bridge player but, through her bridge classes, taught many existing members the art of the game.

The table money for the evening was supplemented by a raffle, enabling the club to raise £200 for the Sandville Self Help Centre.

Other latest results are: Saturday, September 27, First – Tony Haworth and Keith Davison; second – Roger Draper and Trish Saunders.

Monday, September 29, first – Terry Dolan and Roger Plant; second – Gary Williams and Tony Haworth.

Thursday, October 2, first, Betty Longley and Tony Haworth; second – Peter and Sandie Jenkins.

Saturday, October 4, first – Colin and Hazel Heard; second – Kate Craven and Terry Dolan.

Monday, October 6, first – Gary Williams and Tony Haworth; second – Betty Longley and Sue Anthony.

Thursday, October 9, Marie Ratcliffe Charity Pairs, first – Keith Davison and Tony Haworth; second – Gary Williams and Pat Haworth.

The club meets three times a week, Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor centre, and Monday at the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel 7pm–10.15pm. Visitors welcome at any time.

To contact the club, call secretary Trish on 01656 785794.

TH

Sports in double action

BRIDGEND Sports under-9s faced another hectic but exciting week with a further set of round robin games against Cambrian and Beddau.

Having narrowly lost to Beddau at the beginning of the season the Sports needed to produce their best performance of the season and they did not disappoint in either game.

In the first game against Cambrian, the home side youngsters set the standard with a fine team performance, epitomized by a massive 76 tackles across two halves. From the kick off, Sports showed a sense of purpose both in attack and defence.

They scored an early try in the game, through Joel Rogers, after good running and inter-passing from Dylan Morgan, Tyron Davies and Mackenzie Dent. The Sports then exerted relentless defensive pressure on Cambrian and the away side were constantly driven back to their own line.

Prominent in defence were Ben King, Cian John, Dylan Morgan, Jodi Keane, Mackenzie Dent, Mason Balmer, Tom Chick and the dynamo Tyron Davies.

The pressure soon told and the loose ball was snapped up, fed to Callum Lewis and onto Joel Rogers for him to score his second try.

The third try came from an individual effort from Ieuan Pilliner following another turnover; he collected the ball five metres inside his own half, beat two players and then was tackled by three defenders five metres out, but he powered his way over to make the halftime score 3-0

In the second half, Cambrian tried to retain possession but were constantly pinned back on their own line. Whenever they tried to break out they were met with solid tackles from Thomas Coles, Tyron Davies, Joel Rogers and Cian John for the Sports.

Joel Rogers scored his third try of the game sneaking over from a scrum on the Cambrian line. Callum Lewis was next to score after a break from Rhys Wilson who made good ground before giving the try scoring pass.

The final try of the game was scored when Dylan Morgan set off on a sweeping run beating several defenders and then linked with Callum Lewis for him to score his second and secure a 6-0 win for his team.

In their second game of the morning the Sports faced Beddau. Supporters may have been apprehensive but the young players were not as they soon registered the first score of the game.

It was made by Alex Stimpson who set off on a run; he took two players with him before passing to Ben King who made good ground and then passed the ball onto Mackenzie Dent to score the try to get the Sports off to a perfect start.

Beddau tried to run back at the Sports from the restart but they knocked the ball forward. From the scrum, Tyron Davies took possession and claimed a very well deserved try by powering himself over the line.

Fearless tackling from the home side saw them reclaim possession after another Beddau restart and Joel Rogers was again in the thick of things to claim the next try.

The fourth try for the Sports was the result of good running from Jodi Keane, Rhys Wilson, Dylan Morgan and finally Iestyn John who fended off two tackles before crossing the line to score.

The Sports were now showing confidence in both defence and attack. They were able to secure turnover ball as a result of the outstanding team effort in defence. Solid running from Rhys Wilson and Thomas Coles supplied good ball for the final score of the first half by Joel Rogers. The Sports were 5-0 up going into the second half.

Their pride hurt by a home team on fine form,Beddau showed their quality by restricting the Sports to one further try from Joel Rogers. Whenever Beddau tried to mount attacks, they were constantly thwarted by some excellent cover tackles with Alex Stimpson claiming the tackle of the game to prevent a certain score.

The final score of the game went to Joel Rogers of the home team as they ran out 6-0 victors to round off an excellent morning.

All Sports squad members had played their part and showed the whole squad is developing rapidly and this was a well-earned reward for their enthusiasm, commitment, hard work and collective spirit.

Beddau and Cambrian finished off the morning with a final game. Beddau provided too strong for Cambrian as they ran out 7-2 winners.

Bridgend Sports under-9s travel to Porthcawl for this week's fixture.

SP

Karate students excel at event

STUDENTS from Porthcawl SKC recently took part in their first tournament with the Welsh Karate League.

The competition was divided into two main disciplines, Kata - set forms - and Kumite – fighting - both of which are very dynamic and exciting events to watch.

Charlotte Parry won bronze in the ladies Kata, Richard Davies won bronze in the Mens Kumite, Dylan John won bronze in the boys Kata and Darren Powel won a silver in the mens veterans Kumite

All the students and instructors at Porthcawl Karate Club, who meet at Awel Y Mor Community Centre on Monday and Thursday nights, congratulate them on their achievement and look forward to the next competition.

KW

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Family Notices

STERRITT
Alma Joyce (née Fisher)

On October 10, at her home in Llantwit Major, Alma, beloved wife of the late Bill, dearly loved mother of Jan and Gill, dear mother-in-law of Martin and David, a much loved nan.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday, October 24, service 12.45pm at St Illtuds Church, Llantwit Major, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 2.15pm. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

MELBOURNE
Patricia Ann (Trish)

Peacefully at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff on October 1st, Trish of Monmouth Way, Llantwit Major. Dearly beloved wife of the late Dez, much loved mum of Aled and Geraint, loving sister of Barbara, adored Nannie Trish of Ellie, Gracie, Martha, Cadi, Matthew, Daniel, Curzon, Kayleigh, Jaydene and Jack.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until her funeral service and commital at The Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Monday October 20th at 12.45 pm. Family flowers only but donations in lieu of flowers to Cancer Research Wales. At Trish's request bright coloured attire to be worn.

DAVIES
Maureen

Peacefully on the 7th October in the Princess of Wales Hospital, Maureen of Llantwit Major. Beloved wife of Malcolm and a dearly loved mother to Beverley, Philip and Suzanne and a much loved grandmother who will be sadly missed.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College St, Llantwit Major until the funeral service on Monday, 20 October 2014 in St. Cattwgs Church, Llanmaes at 10.30am, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 11.30am. Family flowers only but donations may be made to British Lung Foundation in Wales c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only).

EVANS
Eira

Peacefully on October 3 Eira in her 98th year, formerly of Barry, beloved wife of the late Revd. Jack Evans, dearly loved mother of John and Julia, dear mother-in-law of Sally and Kevin, a much loved grandmother and great grandmother.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday, October 20, service 2.00pm at All Saints Church, Barry, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 3.00pm. Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu, if desired, to Ty Hafan Childrens Hospice Wales, c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

THOMAS
Audrey Mary

Her devoted husband Jim and family wish to thank all of the kind people who sent so many sympathy cards and generously gave financial contributions towards the Alzheimer Research Project (£368 to date).

Also, thank you to the wonderful caring Waverley Staff who so tenderly administrated the palliative care that she needed.

CAVE
Allan Norman

Passed away peacefully on Thursday, October 9, Allan, formerly of The Parade, Barry. Will be sadly missed by his wife Jennifer, children Jonathan and Joanna and granddaughters Laura and Jasmine.

Resting at AG Adams & Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until his funeral service at All Saints Church, Barry, on Thursday, October 23 at 11am, followed by cremation at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 12 noon. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home. A special thanks to all the nursing and care staff at Quarry Hall, Cardiff, for all your support.

BURDER
Clive Douglas

Peacefully after a long illness, Clive, much loved husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. Will be sadly missed by all that knew him.

Funeral service at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on Tuesday, October 21st at 2pm, followed by interment at The Limes Cemetery. Family flowers only, but donations, if desired, to Parkinson's UK, 215 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, SW1V 1EJ.

RICHARDSON
Kenneth
"Kenny"

Pat and family would like to pass on their thanks to friends, neighbours and everyone else for their support, love and kindness during the past weeks. Thank you also to all involved with the arrangements for Ken's day. For those who donated to the Huddersfield Nerve Centre, due to circumstances beyond the family's control, this is now with the Parkinson's Fund on behalf of Ken's sister Iris; also thank you for the generous donations to Ty Hafan.

Again, thanks a million

Birthdays

Nicola Care

Happy 30th Birthday
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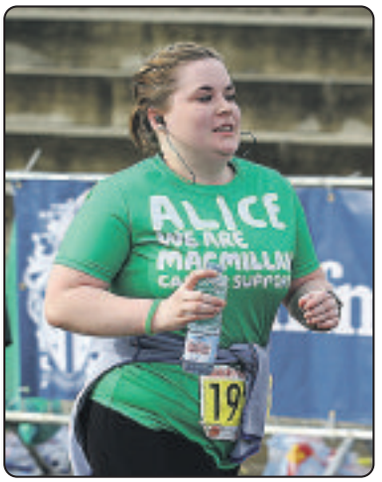
Who wants to build what, and where?

Mrs Oakes – **Corner House, Llysworney** – Demolish existing car port, construct single storey garage and entrance porch to rear. C/o Agent, DTB Design – **7 Goldsland Place, Barry** – Rear/side ground floor extension.
Mrs N Richards – **Tudor Lodge, Bonvilston** – New stable/agricultural block.
Mr Shaun Cuddihy – **Brackendene, Wenvoe** – Proposed lodge building on redundant rural buildings.
Mr Paul Wilsher – **63(a) Main Road, Ogmore by Sea** – Removal of conditions 1 and 2 within planning permission 1986/01469.
UWC Atlantic College – **United World College of Atlantic Ltd, St Donats Castle, St Donats** – Construction of a proposed new sports hall facility to compliment existing sporting amenities at UWC Atlantic College. Sited adjacent to the existing tennis courts, the proposal involves the demolition of some existing maintenance/storage buildings. The new building shall have a multi-use sports hall, dedicated dance studio, gym, associated changing facilities and storage, student cafe area with kitchen and servery, small student office/reception, and outdoor terrace seating areas to take advantage of coastal views. The proposed building also incorporates No. 68 roof-mounted photo voltaic panels.
Mrs Yvonne Williams – **2 Tair Gwaun, Cavesham Park, Penarth** – Conservatory to rear of property.
Mr Paul Motte – **United World College of the Atlantic Ltd, St Donats Castle, St Donats, Llantwit Major** – The replacement of existing defective heating pipework running within a stone clad riser that can only be accessed externally.
Mr Philip Lewis – **1 Byron Court, Penarth** – To rebuild an existing conservatory with the following minor modifications: frame will be UPVC (currently aluminium); glass will be double glazed (currently single glazed); side glass will be obscured to improve privacy (currently non-obscure glass); rear doors will be French doors (currently sliding doors); roof will be made of more environmentally friendly material (currently single glazed glass) and conservatory will be rebuilt to exactly the same dimensions as the existing conservatory.
Mr Peter Ballantyne, Barratt Homes – **Beth Rapha, Ogmore by Sea Caravan Park, Hazelwood, Ogmore by Sea** – Re-development of existing house for three detached houses.
Mr Peter Ballantyne, Barratt Homes – **Ogmore by Sea Caravan Park, Main Road, Ogmore by Sea** – Re-development of caravan site for residential development, with associated open space at Ogmore by Sea Caravan Park.
Mr Peter Ballantyne, Barratt Homes – **Crompton Bungalow, Ogmore by Sea** – Re-development of existing bungalow for three detached houses.
Mr Richard Ball – **13 Althorp Drive, Penarth** – Double storey side extension, single storey rear extension and internal modifications on ground and first floor.
Mr and Mrs Robert Stone – **65 Heol Collen, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff** – Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of new orangery extension.
The UK Holiday Group, c/o Agent – **Mount Sorrel Hotel, Porthkerry Road, Barry** – Outline application for residential development and associated works (including the demolition of existing structures on site).
Mr Gwyn Davies, Delyn Properties – **Llanerch Vineyard, Hensol** – Proposed secret garden room.
Mr M and Mrs A Rasbuary – **47 Redlands Road, Penarth** – Proposed hip to gable, proposed rear dormer.
Mr Dave Sloan – **32 Eagleswell Road, Boverton** – Proposed single storey rear extension, front gable elevation extension with associated internal alterations.
Mr Webber – **Plot 116, The Hedgerows, White Farm, Barry** – Proposed alteration of approved dwelling to include rear conservatory extension.
Mr David Llewellyn – **Brocastle Barn Cottage, Colwinston** – Conversion of a barn to a three bedroom dwelling.
Mr Andre Yuen Lee – **Edwington, Port Road, Wenoe** – Proposed extension to front and rear elevations.
Mr Justin Coles – **37 Blackberry Drive, Barry** – Increase depth of approved extension by 600mm.
Neil P Roberts MEng IChemE CEng – **Dow Corning Limited, Cardiff Road, Barry** – Storage of hazardous substances.

CHARITIES BENEFIT AS RUNNERS TAKE TO ROAD IN CARDIFF HALF MARATHON



Thumbs up for Marie Curie!

OCTOBER sees the Cardiff Half Marathon taking place and for many runners the inspiration is a local, Welsh or national charity.

A number of people from Bridgend and the Vale areas took part and photographer Glyn Evans was on hand to capture the action.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

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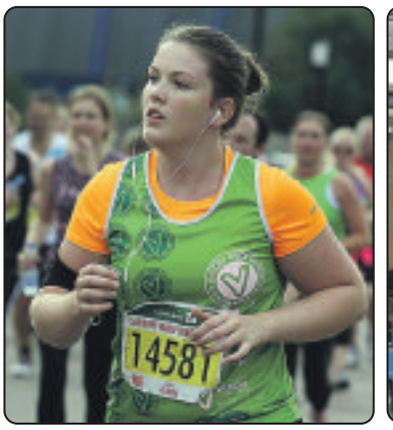

CAVC side impress

CARDIFF and Vale College's Rugby Academy, which is run in partnership with Cardiff Blues at the BT Cardiff Arms Park, has got off to a winning start this year with a series of impressive victories.

The CAVC Academy is rapidly on its way to becoming the largest rugby programme of any college in Wales, with the potential for 100 learners taking part. This will enable the college to field four teams.

In its first match against Cowbridge Academy, the CAVC team won a 38-5 victory, dominating the game despite being underdogs from the beginning. The CAVC Academy controlled the game with lineout and scrum giving the back line opportunity after opportunity to attack their Cowbridge counterparts.

CAVC director of rugby Martyn Fowler was asked to name a man of the match but declined. Instead, he pointed to the performance of 16-year-old Dan Watts from Dinas Powys, 18-year-old Sol Khan from Cardiff, 16-year-old Jake Thomas from Cardiff, 16-year-old Jacob La-Roche from Cardiff and the 17-year-old team skipper Joel Ringer, from Penarth, for their strong performances.

Flushed with the success of their first game, the CAVC Rugby Academy then went on to the Welsh Colleges 7's tournament at Coleg Sir Gar. Here they won three out of four games, including a 12-5 victory over Sir Gar.

Last week, the CAVC Rugby Academy – with a slightly changed team to ensure everyone gets a chance to 'earn their shirt' - played Coleg Gwent. The fixture had to be brought to a close on 45 minutes as the CAVC team reached a point difference of 50 plus, beating Coleg Gwent 66 points to 12 with 25 minutes remaining.

Outside centre 16-year-old Mike Wallis from Cardiff crossed the whitewash four times while Jake Thomas scored twice. Other try scorers included fullback Ryan Crowley who is 16 and from Cardiff, scrum half Dan Griffiths 17-year-old Cardiffian Dan Griffiths, blind-side Sol Khan and hooker Dan Watts.

"We are looking for more fixtures to ensure that we take advantage of the momentum that this young group is building," Martyn Fowler said.

Damon deputises in goal as Barry remain unbeaten

FORMER Cardiff City defender Damon Searle made his 65th appearance for Barry Town on Saturday; yet few would prove more more memorable for the 42-year old player-coach.

After an eleventh-hour illness ruled out goalkeeper Dan Bradley and red tape prevented his replacement appearing, veteran centre-back Searle was forced to deputise between the sticks.

A difficult afternoon appeared in the offing, especially when opponents AFC Llwydcoed, who had won at Jenner Park last season, ruthlessly seized a second-minute lead.

However, the Town would hit back in rapid order, with striker James Dixon scoring his seventh of the season in the seventh minute to set the tone for a real rollercoaster encounter.

Resilient Searle later made an outstanding save to keep the sides on level terms, though Barry hopes of a result were dented by loss of both midfielder Ryan Dorrian and defender Ryan Evans to injury.

Sensing blood, Llwydcoed came out fighting after the break and would find fortune on their side within minutes, as a deflected effort restored their one-goal advantage.

Nonetheless, their second lead would also prove to be temporary with Rhys James restoring parity seven minutes later, to the delight of the travelling Town supporters.

In the 63rd minute, Barry fell behind for the third time in the match, makeshift netminder Searle beaten at his near-post to give the Cynon Valley outfit a 3-2 lead.

The Town's endeavour however endured, with defender Lewis Cosslett, in the midst of his landmark 200th appearance, striking the crossbar from a header.

With a little over 20 minutes to play, the pendulum swung back in Barry's favour, as Llwydcoed were reduced to 10 men for an apparent blow on Dixon. James then popped up once more to score his sixth in seven games and level the scores at 3-3.

There would still be significant twists in the tale with a distraught Dixon dismissed for collecting a second yellow card.

The final word though would go to Barry's Bobby Briers, the substitute coolly converting a dramatic late penalty to win the match 4-3, after Cosslett had been held back in the area.

While Barry's injury ratio continues to be a major concern, this spirited comeback win was a massive boost for Gavin Chesterfield's side in their pursuit of a second successive promotion.

With the campaign still in its early days, the result kept the unbeaten Town on top of Welsh League Division Two, a point clear of second-placed Aberbargoed Buds with a game in hand.

Barry now prepare to return home to Jenner Park, with third-placed Caldicot Town the visitors on Tuesday, October 23 (7.45pm kick-off).

Barry: Searle, Morgan, Coslett, Evans, Baldock, Saddler, James, Dorrian, Greening, Hutson, Dixon. Subs used: Richards, O' Loughlin, Briers. Sub unused: McInery.

AC

Barry thirds are brave but beaten

IT is a credit to any club that they field three senior men's teams on a Saturday.

Barry Thirds trooped out to face a more experienced Dinas 2nds at the Reservoir Fields. From the outset we had to settle for uncontested scrums which with hindsight probably assisted Barry.

Barry's forwards, ably assisted by the accurate kicking of Bailey, had the better of the first five minutes of play.

With powerful running by Avaient, Myers, Templeman and L Jones (c), and back row of Morris and Cleland, they pushed Dinas back into their 22.

After an unsuccessful penalty effort, Forrester duly rewarded the forwards' efforts by converting the next chance to put the hosts 3-0 up.

The next 20 minutes saw Dinas utilise their backs to exploit overlap after overlap to score four tries in quick succession to open a considerable lead.

With a few harsh words the Barry forwards came back into the game; unfortunately as we looked to prevent the overlaps, we were too stretched in the middle and with some lightweight efforts at tackling (from forwards and backs) the visitors scored another couple of tries and conversions.

Thomas came on five minutes into the second half with fresh legs and Barry forwards again showed what they could do with ball in hand. Dinas didn't abate from their attacking intent and brought on fresh legs.

They were able to score tries at regular intervals despite Barry trying their best. With the score mounting up and the sun blazing down, Barry had one more late substitute to put on.

The scene was set for Clements to change the game and in a way he did. He provided much needed fresh impetus and go forward ball, making Dinas think. With the clock ticking down Barry had the last score after several phases ended up with Rees scoring in the right corner.

On a positive note, not one head went down in a mainly one-sided game.

The management would like to thank the supporters and all 18 players who donned the shirt.

AM

Pumas involved in a rollercoaster game!

BARRY Inter FC and Pontprennau Pumas were involved in a rollercoaster ride of a game.

The Pumas forced us into errors which led to their first goal, which was an own goal, before we then equalised after a shot at goal was initially cleared, the rebound falling nicely to Owen who slotted it away.

They then forced a penalty, which was placed near the top corner but we came back through an equaliser by Jacob.

We conceded a further two goals ending the first half 4-2 down. In the second half the confidence returned, the missed passes and mistakes started to disappear, and our midfield engine seemed to be burning the right fuel.

Our defence took stock and held firm and our forward players drove down the wing and played some pinpoint stuff.

James slotted in a lovely goal, and then Owen netted a fine second to restore parity. We then took the lead through Eski, who finished well.

A very nervy final eight minutes ensued as they pushed for the equaliser, and defending was called for close to the end.

These young boys held firm to win 5-4 and showed the character they usually have that was sadly missing in the first half.

Team: Connor, Dan, Josh, Charlie, Aron, Sion, Lloyd, Owen, Eski, Iestyn, Jack, Jacob, James and Rory.

DD

Camelots go top of division one

IT was the busiest week in the season so far, with all four Barry chess club teams playing and ending up with a mixed bag of results.

In division one, the Bosons were at home to the Cardiff Castles, while two days later the Camelots made the reverse trip to take on the Cardiff Monarchs. Three of our players played in both matches.

The Castles are always a tough team to play and so it proved on the night. Craig Woolcock, Steve Cunliffe and Dave Parsons all earned draws but father and son, Lee and Ashley Davis, were not so lucky, so the Bosons ended up losing by 3.5-1.5.

There was better news for our second team, the Camelots. The Monarchs were hampered when they had to make a late substitution on board one. Lee Davis, Matthew Parry and Ken Hannah all earned wins with Craig and Ashley both drawing. So all five players were undefeated and returned home with a 4-1 victory.

After four rounds of games there is a new name at the top of division one. The Camelots stand proudly at the top looking down on their opponents and hold a 1.5 point advantage over the North Cardiff Woodpushers. The Bosons share third spot with the Cardiff Castles only a further half point behind.

In division three, the Quarks earned a 3-2 victory over the Rhondda Spitfires. This result moved the Quarks out of the bottom three but they hold only a 0.5 point advantage. The victory was earned with four draws and only Chris Green managed a win.

Chris was left with a mate in one and sat there for five minutes before actually making the move. His colleagues thought he had spent so much time that either he had made a different move in error or that he couldn't see the win. But it all ended satisfactorily.

The Gambits had a difficult game away to newly-relegated Caerphilly Rooks. As seems to be the case in every Gambit game, we were outrated on every board. There was a good win for Jason Grice on board three and Phil Jones had a typical boring draw to pick up the only points on the night.

Steve Bonutto played for a long time before succumbing and failing to record a win in division four for the first time.

Martin Ricketts held a minor advantage but failed to move his extra pawn and then left his white bishop on the same diagonal behind his king to lose with time running out for both players. The eventual result was a 3.5-1.5 win for the Rooks.

The Gambits are in third place at the moment but this is a false position as most of the other teams have games in hand.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club. St Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games. For more details visit our website at barrychessclub.yolasite.com

PHIL JONES

Barry & District mens skittle league

DIVISION 1:

49'ers (S.Baggott 33) 311, Blue Monkey (D.Such 31) 308.; Bunker Boys (J.Spur,N.Taylor, S.Western 27) 271, Mighty Dockers (D.Morgan 29) 258; Colcot Boys (T.Sherrin 29) 227, BarryPark 'B'(P.Clarke 30) 307; Ex-Servicemen (P.Cox 33) 267, Park Rangers (D.Goldsby 29) 219; The Hairy Lemons (L.Russell,K.Silvey,J.Hoare 26) 282,West End Stars (J.Snook 29) 254.

Division 2: Abercrete (D.Selby 31) 273, Exiles (A.Collins 28) 267; BP Breakaways (J.mills 26) 255, Buffs Exiles (G.John, A.Boucheron 26) 268; Road Runners D.Sullivan, L.Bennett 25) 247, Witchill Poachers (M.Copp 28) 243; Sea View (J.Stokes 30) 292, The Royalists (A.Evans 32) 276; Witchill Wizards (A.Butler 34) 351, Barry Social (T.Richards 35) 341.

Division 3: Billy Bluebirds (R.Jones, J.Marshall 26) 253, British Rail (L.Jones 28) 245; Billy Whizz (M.Gear 26) 254, West End Fliers (J.Gill 27) 249; Commanchies '2'(N.Watkins, J.Thompson 33) 301, Billy Whizz (G.Nibbett 29) 307; The Rejects (C.Abela 29) 283, K.P.Monkey Nuts (J.Clarke 27) 271.

HR

Great turnout at the Glamorgan Hunter Trials

PHOTOGRAPHS by HEATHER MARCH

The winner of the Open Class (and £300) competing against experienced adults on big horses, was 12-year-old Ellie Thorn on Quelle Surprise.

THERE was record turnout at the Glamorgan Hunter Trials at Alps Park, Wenvoe, with more than 210 horses and ponies taking part across different levels, from minimus to the challenging open.

Alice Rees from Laleston riding Goldie.

Organiser Terry Edgell congratulated the winners and all those who competed and thanks to the hosts at Alps Park, the sponsors, the organisers and stewards and helpers who worked so hard.

ABOVE: Peter Davies from Cottrell won the Clodach Cravos challenge picture for the highest-placed Glamorgan Hunt member in the open class.

Harriet Edwards from Colwinston on Misty in the Minimus Class

Owen John of Cowbridge and Rhys Ford of Llandow receiving their trophies from Joint Master Mike Gibbon. They won the Minimus Pairs riding Rosie and Sunny.

Seaview lads news

THE lads have enjoyed better fishing over recent months with some excellent catches of hounds and Rays from boat and shore.

The boat fishing has been very good with lots of good Blonde Ray being caught and the Viking marauders enjoyed excellent fishing for giant cod while in Norway

On the most recent evening competition, Johnny Jones was top man with a bag that included a conger of 10lb 8oz, while Roger Green took the honours in the last match of September and Kevin Salah included six hounds from the shore in his winning weight of over 35lb earlier in the month.

There have been too many poor days though, with low winning weights and many anglers fishless at a time of year we would expect some bumper bags. Credit must go to the hardy guys that stick it out regardless.

The annual migration to the Canaries is looming soon but before then we have some serious fishing to attend to and look forward to a huge turnout for Bert's competition on October 26. The next meeting is tonight, October 16.

RESULTS

Friday, October 10 - 1st J Jones, 2nd G Spitteri, 3rd M Langford, 4th P Coles. Sunday, September 28 - 1st R Green 6 lb 13 oz. Wednesday, September 24 - 1st P Coles 3 lb 4 oz. Sunday, September 7 - 1st K Salah 35 lb 9 oz, 2nd P Coles 12 lb 8 oz, 3rd S Doble 1 lb 8 oz, 4th S Davies 1 lb 5 oz, 5th G Morgan 6 oz.

JC

HARVEST FESTIVAL IS CELEBRATED BY PETERSTON SUPER ELY PRIMARY PUPILS

PHOTOGRAPHS by IAN DIXON

PETERSTON-SUPER-ELY Primary School pupils recently celebrated Harvest Festival with a service and by bringing along their gifts.

As you can see from Ian Dixon's photographs the children generosity produced quite a haul which was donated to a foodbank.

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Local tractor run helps Macmillan

RIGHT: Basil George with Claire Davies and Val Weaver

ON Sunday, October 5, the annual Ogmore Castle Vintage Tractor Run took place to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Around 35 tractors took to the road at 10.30am, travelling from Ogmore Village around the Vale and back to base approximately two-and-a-half hours later.

The tankard this year was presented to James Isaacs from Groesfaen, who had travelled the furthest distance to take part in the run. The organiser, Basil George, thanked everyone who made the effort to attend the run, and presented each participant with a medal.

He also thanked Robert and Angela Williams for the use of the Ogmore Castle field, Paul Hooper for the signwriting, Jeff Webb from the Aberthin Tractor Boys for the catering and BS Supplies for the medals and trophies.

The Vintage Tractor Run raised £470, bringing the running total to £2,865 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Val Weaver and Claire Davies, fundraisers for Macmillan, thanked all those who had donated towards the local cancer support facilities. **BG**

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Emphatic win for Barry Seconds

BARRY Second XV were hoping to put their disappointment of the last fortnight behind them as they travelled to Llandaff in autumnal conditions.

Coach Rhidian Scott and manager Ken Chow were able to recall Tom Lee for his first start for the 2nd XV at scrum-half. He was partnered by Rich O'Sullivan at half back, while Dominic Busuttil also returned to form a midfield partnership with Dave Williams. John Dimond was moved into the back row following the withdrawal of captain Lee Jones.

Barry attacked from the off, attempting to utilise the pace of their backs out wide. After several early opportunities were spurned, Tom Poole finally made the pressure tell as he ran over after being set up brilliantly by full-back Rhidian Mepham. Lee was unable to add the extras.

If the visitors thought this was going to be the way of things to come, they were wrong. Llandaff increased the tempo of the game, leaving the Barry forwards disorganised and the home side reduced the deficit with a penalty.

Worse was to come for the green-and-whites, as the home side dominated the contact area to turn possession over, before spreading the ball out wide to round off the move with a converted try.

With the game in the balance, coach Scott was forced to make ruthless changes at halftime, and it seemed to have paid off almost immediately when Barry were awarded a penalty in front of the posts. Lee reduced the deficit to two points.

With the away side now on the front foot, and the forwards back in the game in open play, the half-back partnership of Lee and O'Sullivan began to dictate matters, and it was no surprise when the stretched Llandaff defence were unable to stop the scrum-half touching down for his first try of the game; it was not to be his last. Lee failed with the conversion attempt.

The Barry scrum turned the screw, especially after the introduction of James Sullivan, and this gave the opportunity for the backs to shine, and it was O'Sullivan who crossed next with a strong run following forward drives from Corne, Dimond and Barclay. Lee missed the conversion.

Following more territorial domination, and some good work from the midfield of Busuttil and Williams, Lee jinked over to score his second of the match.

With the Barry line-out, following the return of Kyle Case, inch-perfect, it was only a matter of time before Lee completed his hat-trick, crashing over in the corner. O'Sullivan added the extras.

Lee's half-back partner O'Sullivan was not to be outdone, and it was him who had the final word. Barry turned over a Llandaff scrum with apparent ease, and with the try-line at his mercy, the fly-half powered through for his second try. Lee added the conversion from out wide to leave the final score 39-10 to Barry.

The management was delighted at the level of performance and commitment, especially in the second half, by the team to turn their fortunes around.

More of the same would be expected as the 2nd XV continue their league campaign at home to Llanishen this weekend, while 3rd XV host Llandaff.

Team: Mepham; Knapman, Busuttil ©, Williams, Poole; O'Sullivan, Lee; Corne, Turnbull, Heard; Flynn, Barclay; Dimond, Case, J Evans. Replacements: Sullivan, Westall, Rolfe, D Evans. Man-of-the-match: O'Sullivan.

KC

Barrivale bridge results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for October 7:

First, Mark Roderick and Mike Best, 61.11 per cent; second, Peter Millar and Mike Close, 57.94 per cent; third, Jane Brook and Celia Thomas, 56.25 per cent.

Dave Thomas and Tom Kendrick won on handicap.

Alan Jones and Sean Macdougall won the Nancy Malpas Trophy; this was played on September 23 (*pictured above*).

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

DR

MMG prove too much for Rovers

MMG Seconds came up against Barry Rovers at Seven Avenue with only a point separating the two teams.

With players injured, away player/manager Lee Galsworthy had to call in two first team players to help fill the bench.

Barry Rovers took a deserved lead after 15 minutes when a pin point cross found their No 6 unmarked who dispatched a perfect header into the top of the net.

MMG were dealt another blow as their keeper Ross had an unfortunate clash with a Barry Rovers player that resulted in him later needing six staples in his head. He was replaced by the ever-reliable Scott Nelson who was soon called into action, tipping an effort wide of the goal.

The game changed when David Evans hit a speculative long shot that their keeper couldn't hold and went into the net to bring the scores level. MMG stepped up their efforts and they were rewarded with a free kick about 25 yards out. The resultant free kick was juggled by the hands of the away keeper before going in.

Midway through the second half Drew Burniston jinked his way pastthree players to unleash a fierce shot but he was being held by at least one of the Rovers defence; the penalty was duly dispatched by Evans for his hat-trick.

Paul Murphy was replaced by Rodgers and with 10 minutes left, the tireless Mason was replaced with Spears. Well done to Josh Cummings and Paul Edwards for their man of the match displays.

MMG would like to thank their sponsor BRT International for their support.

LG

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

***GET HOME NOW*, a six-year-old bay gelding owned by Bridgend's Jayne Brace and her father Gwyn, a former race commentator, landed the handicap hurdle at Market Rasen recently getting home, pardon the pun, by one-and-three quarter lengths from *Past Master*.**

Get Home Now is trained by Peter Bowen at Little Newcastle in Haverfordwest and was ridden by his son Sean, who has come in for a lot of praise this season.

Evan's hat-trick

LLANCARFAN'S Evan Williams, who is the leading trainer at Ludlow Racecourse, brought his total of wins there to 50 when landing a treble at the Shropshire racecourse with *Upsanddowns* (novices hurdle), *Dark Spirit* (mares handicap hurdle) and *Bullet Street* (handicap chase).

Upsanddowns, the odds-on favourite won by half-a-length from *Georgie Lad*, *Dark Spirit*, a 6-1 chance, scored by the minimum distance – a nose – and *Bullet Street* won by two-and-a-quarter lengths from *The Bear Trap*.

Stable jockey Paul Moloney was aboard *Upsanddowns* and *Bullet Street* and Adam Wedge rode *Dark Spirit*.

Of *Dark Spirit*, Evan said: "We had loads of problems with her last season as she always seemed to be in season, but we were hoping for a clear run this time and this is a promising start. Her owner Mario Stavrou had a heart attack 10 days ago, so this win will be a tonic for him."

The Omen springs a surprise

***THE OMEN*, an eight-year-old bay gelding trained by Tim Vaughan at Aberthin, was a surprise 14-1 winner of the novices' handicap chase at Worcester last week.**

Well ridden by Alan Johns, *The Omen* scored by six lengths from the favourite *Pure Poteen* with the Evan Williams trained *Islandmagee* back in third place.

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Families go for the burn in Margam

The 'Fantastic Phillips' family of Cowbridge: Nic and Isabel (left) and Alys and Tim (right).

PHOTOGRAPHS
by **GLYN EVANS**

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

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www.ffotoimage.co.uk

DOUBLE world record holder Maria Leijerstam from the Vale, founder of the Burn Series of multisport events, organised the recent Mini Burn weekend in Margam Park.

Here is her report:

THE biggest family turn-out to any multisport adventure race in the UK made Mini Burn at Margam Park the place to be last weekend.

We had families from all over Wales, as well as from across the border.

The event comprised a 3km run, 1km kayak on double sit-on-top kayaks, a 5 or 10km mountain bike and a 2km orienteer, with some additional challenges such as climbing, so it ensured that the 140 competitors deserved a good night's sleep after a day of multisport.

Everyone who completed the course received a Mini Burn medal and goody bag.

Most competitors were there for a fun day out but competition this year was closely fought in all categories.

The 'family category' – including a junior under-10 – was won by the 'Fantastic Phillips' of Cowbridge, a father-daughter team, Nic and seven-year-old Isabel in a time of 01:39:49.

Second place went to the Bagwell family from Gwent, a mother and son team, Janet and nine-year-old Ewan, and third place went to the Mighty White Team, Rhys and nine-year-old Taylor White from Mountain Ash.

In the family category, with a junior over 10 years old and under 18, the winners were Team Jones from Bridgend in a time of 01:37:24. Team Jones was a father and son team, Alun and 13-year-old Rhys Jones.

Second place went to the other half of the Bagwell family, Andrew and 11 year old Harry, and third place went to The Gravelleu Macsimon team, 11-year-old Macsen Stockton from Penarth and Rhiannon Gravell from Cardiff.

Sarah Mee from Swansea said: "The mini burn is a well-organised event which welcomed people to give it a go and enjoy an adventure race atmosphere.

"The climbing wall was a great addition and a great way to finish off on a 'high'. The kids are very proud of what they accomplished and have taken their participation medals into school to talk about their experience."

The Male category was won by Team Sherlock Plus, Jermey Holmes from Dinas Powys and Mark Partridge from Ealing, who just can't stop winning at our mini burn events, and the mixed category was won by Team Monty Bojangles from Bristol – Vicky Shufflebottom and Steven Springings.

The Female category was won by the Clifford Dudettes, Helen and Katie of Bristol and the Team of four by the Happy Bandits from Cardiff.

So many smiling faces crossing the Mini Burn finish line makes this event an absolute pleasure to organise and is the reason I get out of bed every morning with a spring in my step.

Before the season finishes, there is one more Burn event, at Llandaff Rowing Club on October 26. It's an adults event only and the competition is high, so for any parents who loved the mini burn, and really want to put their fitness and navigation skill to the test, it's the one to look out for.

Details can be found on www.burnseries.co.uk

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07 **VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 Design Estate.** In met slate, 58,000 miles **£4,495**
57 **VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 Breeze 5-Dr** In silver, 42,000 miles, reduced to **£4,295**
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ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

Point-to-Point's strangest races

WE ended the first part of Point-To-Points Strangest Races with the Brunico fiasco at the Gelligaer Farmers' meeting.

However, that wasn't the only strange happenings at Llantarnam that day. For those punters who had backed the winner *Wren's Trix*, brilliantly ridden by Joe Price, at odds of 4-1, to finish alone in the three horse members' race, they had every reason to feel agrieved and they complained to the stewards after it had been announced that the odds-on favourite *Trumpet Player*, partnered by Robert Rowsell, had finished second.

What had happened was that *Trumpet Player* unshipped his rider at the second last fence and was remounted and did eventually finish the race.

However, the judge seeing the crowds crossing the course, assumed that there were no other finishers and was not in his stand when the horse and rider passed the winning post.

And Jockey Club rules stated that 'No horse which passes the winning post after the judge has left his stand shall be placed.'

Apparently, the judge was given a good telling off by the chief steward, John Cory. However, those who had backed *Wren's Trix* to finish alone went home cursing him.

First attempt wins on second attempt

IN 1985, a horse called *First Attempt* won on her second attempt at the Tivyside Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases.

First Attempt, an eight-year-old chestnut mare owned by Mr W K Rhead, was made favourite for the men's open race but took a tumble early in the race.

Around an hour later, *First Attempt*, ridden by the owner's son Alan Rhead, faced the starter again when lining up for the adjacent hunts' race which she won after her solitary rival, *Portfield Fair,* failed to complete the course.

Later, Rhead had more to smile about when he took the maiden race on Annswell.

Stable mates' dead heat

TWO horses who used to be stable companions dead-heated for the 1984 Welsh point-to-point Grand National at the Pentyrch Hunt Steeplechases at Llantwit Major.

A few years earlier, the two horses *Loch Raven* and *Wine Talk* were both trained at the same time in Ireland by Paul Doyle.

Loch Raven was ridden by Brecon's Brian Eckley and *Wine Talk* by Bridgend's Paul Hamer.

Both jumped the last fence together and the judge, Howard Jones of Rudry, was unable to separate them at the winning post.

Scotch Salmon tipped the scales

A HORSE called *Ferreter*, owned by hunt-racing official Mrs Cynthia Higgon, finished first past the post at the 1983 South Herefordshire Hunt Steepl chases but was disqualified following a Jockey Club enquiry.

Jockey Club officials also disqualified the third, fourth, fifth and sixth horses and awarded the race to the runner-up, *Scottish Salmon*.

All the horses should have carried 12st 7lbs but the Clerk of the Scales insisted, despite pleas from their owners and riders, on weighing out all riders at 12st.

Because *Scottish Salmon's* rider carried 8lb overweight, thus being the only horse in the race to carry 12st 7lb or over, it was awarded the race.

Had all the horses carried the wrong weight the race would have been declared void. Point-to-point rules state that an objection to any decision of the Clerk of the Scales must be made at once.

You can e-mail your horse racing news or views to brianlee4@virginmedia.com or call 02920 736438.

Point-to-point season fixtures announced

THE 2014/15 point-to-point season in the Vale will kick off with the Glamorgan Hunt Steeplechases at Ystradowen on March 28.

The tricky Ystradowen course will also be the venue of the Ystrad Taf Fechan fixture on April 11 and, as usual, both meetings should attract big crowds.

The Llangeinor Hunt Point-To-Point at Dunraven Stud Farm near Pyle is another point-to-point that attracts big crowds and next year's meeting should prove no exception.

Unlike ordinary race meetings, there is a certain charm about point-to-points. The horses and riders the picturesque surroundings of the open countryside, the bookmakers, picnic hampers and trade stalls are all part of the attraction.

Racegoers can mix with owners, trainers and riders and the sport provides a good training ground for horses and riders who may eventually compete under National Hunt rules proper.

Grand National winning jockeys Hywel Davies and Carl Llewellyn, both from Wales, are just two jockeys who began their race-riding careers in point-to-points, while Wales' Norton's Coin, which won the 1990 Cheltenham Gold Cup, and three times Gold Cup winner Best Mate both graduated from the point-to-point field.

Norton's Coin in fact won his first race at a point-to-point meeting held in the Vale.

You can e-mail your point-to-point news to brianlee4@virginmedia.com or call 02920736438.

EVAN ONE WIN SHY OF HIS 50TH

De Faoithesdream, an eight-year-old brown gelding trained by Evan Williams at Llancarfan, landed the Weatherbys Thoroughbred Sales Guide Handicap Hurdle at Ffos Las on Sunday.

Evan needs just one more win at Britain's youngest racecourse to notch-up his half-century at the west Wales racecourse.

Partnered by stable jockey Paul Moloney, the 9-2 chance made all of the running and was never in danger of being caught and after jumping the last hurdle was eased to win by six lengths from Taste The Wine.

ABBEYGREY WINS AGAIN

Evan Williams's Abbeygre, a winner just five days earlier, landed the Handicap Chase at Newton Abbot last Friday.

The promising five-year-old, who was the youngest horse in the race, won by three lengths from Milosam and was ridden by Adam Wedge.

BRIAN LEE

The Townsends are on form for Saints

BARRY SAINTS produced an impressive team performance to beat Cardiff Northern emphatically, 15-1.

Debutant Andrew Townsend got the first superbly finding the top corner from the edge of the box leaving the keeper stranded.

Darren Townsend grabbed his first with a low finish into the bottom corner after great work by Nathan Williams. Darren grabbed another after smashing the ball home from close range.

Nathan Williams then grabbed a goal when he was picked out after a powerful run he blasted the ball home. Joe Matthews clinched a goal after drifting in from the left wing and converting his chance easily.

Darren Townsend added another with a tap in for his hattrick and Andrew Townsend added his second, dancing around four Northern players and hitting a thunderbolt of a shot leaving the keeper with no chance.

Ashley Ashill bagged two from the right wing after leaving his marker for dead both times. Michael Evans was brought on and instantly got in on the action hitting an unstoppable shot from the edge of the box which struck the underside of the bar before crossing the line.

Evans grabbed a second with a low long range effort finding the bottom corner. Darren Townsend grabbed another with a header lobbing the keeper. Michael Evans completed his hattrick from the penalty spot after he was fouled.

Darren Townsend wrapped up the game to secure his double hattrick with a delicate touch volleying home after a superb cross by Evans.

GL

Atoms' close encounter

BARRY Atoms went away to face Pentrych, and the tempo was high the tackling ferocious and the commitment shown by both sides could not be faulted.

Pentrych started off slipping a tackle, running down the wing and scoring a pacey try, which they converted. Barry came back through some fine offloading, being taken up by Harry resulting in a fine try. Pentrych then gained ground and scored, converting yet again.

The scrum wasn't always working but when they got it together progression was assured. We were pegged back almost at our try line; the ball was shifted quickly into Rory's hands and he ran more or less the length of the pitch scoring a marvelous try.

Then in the dying minute of the game Pentrych made an error which was intercepted by Harry who then slipped his man and ran in a great match-winning try, the final score 15-14.

This game had the lot, blood sweat and tears, moments of solo brilliance, and glaring mistakes; yet the boys showed their mettle and ground out this result.

The team spirit shown by these boys when the chips are down was superb; man of the match went to Jack L.

Team: Rhys, Couchy, Anton, Iestyn, Eski, Jacob, Jamie, Kaiden, Rory, Connor, Jack L, Harry, Daf, Cai, Zak, Mason, Ethan. **DD**

Karate league comes to Penarth

PENARTH Leisure Centre hosted the Welsh Karate League recently, with participants travelling from across the UK.

Around 500 male and female competitors took part throughout the day ranging from under-8s up to veterans, in both the Kata and Kumite categories.

There were also 25 competitors, ranging from wheelchair users to people with Learning Disabilities, competing in a range of categories in the disability section of the league, which takes place alongside the mainstream competitions.

Simon Jones, Disability Sport Wales Development Officer for the Vale of Glamorgan Council, said: "I think it's brilliant that disabled competitors are included in the Welsh Karate League. The numbers taking part in a competitive setting is also something for the Welsh Karate League to be proud of."

The style of karate that the disabled participants perform is Kata, which detailed patterns of movements practiced either solo or in pairs. These movements can be adapted to suit each participant where they then face off against an opponent in a safe and controlled environment.

Rob Copeland, president of Karate Wales, said: "Clubs all over the country are attending with ever growing squads as a culture of attending a friendly, regular and professional competition structure has embraced karate in Wales.

"As well as a marked and continuing improvement in the standard of our young competitors, it is also very gratifying to see our Special Needs and Wheelchair Users categories bustling.

"As Karate Wales' reputation as a vibrant and high quality governing body grows, we are also welcoming more and more visitors from outside Wales to the Welsh Karate League, which in turn helps to test and further develop our Welsh competitors."

GOLF NEWS FROM BRYNHILL LADIES

THE latest results from Brynhill ladies are as follows:

September 9: four club competition, winner Linda Hewlett 40 points; runner up Glynis Gould 36.

September 16: GUR Medal/Welsh Dragon Brooch, winner Linda Hewlett 67; runner up Julie Harkin, 70.

September 3: Holland and Tattersall Cup, winner, Jo Kirkpatrick, 33 over the back nine from Olwen Thomas.

September 28: John Collins Foundation, winner Linda Hewlett.

September 30: Consolation Trophy, winner Carole Allen, 40; runner up Di Tapscott 38. Breakthrough Brooch: winner Carole Allen 40; runner up Linda Hewlett, 39.

October 7: Turkey Trot Competition, winner Jane Phillips, 35 over the back nine from Olwen Thomas.

Congratulations to Sue Holland who won the past captains' competition at Glamorgan Golf Club.

Future Events: November 11, Christmas Fayre, 6pm-9pm. Admission £1 at door or by ticket. Stalls selling Christmas gifts, jewellry, calendars and cards, scarves, jams and preserves,Welsh slate gifts, festive flower arrangements, hair products, golf gifts and many more. Refreshments available. November 18 - Ladies Annual General Meeting; also, masterclass, make your own Christmas door swag by Hilary West.

CH

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BRIDGEND ATHLETIC RFC SEE OFF BLACKWOOD IN PERFECT RUGBY WEATHER

DESPITE the torrential downpour about an hour before kick-off this league encounter between Bridgend Athletic and Blackwood was played out in sunny conditions perfect for running rugby and both sides were prepared to be involved in an open exciting game.

From the kick-off flanker Ben Howe, back after injury, was taken in the air and the home team were straight onto the attack. Some well-orchestrated drives by the Athletic pack soon forced the Blackwood defence to infringe and fly-half Josh White slotted over the penalty from right in front to give the Ath an early lead.

Back came Blackwood and when Jake Williams' box kick went straight to touch they drove into midfield from the lineout and strong ball carrying forced the Athletic to give away a penalty which visiting outside half Turner equalised.

Minutes later a similar play from another 22 metre lineout saw Blackwood switch to the blind and burly No. 8 Hayward took advantage of some inauspicious tackling to crash over for a try that Turner converted.

It wasn't long before the home team forced another penalty for White to reduce the deficit and with their scrum dominant through Matt Muir, Lee Murphy and Wayne Fooks, the Athletic were able to monopolise possession for a period.

Even when just inside their own 22 a strong scrum allowed Dan Apsee to feed quickly to White and his pass was transferred through the Hathaway brothers, Luke and Michael, to release Stuart Griffiths.

He ran strongly down the touchline and as the cover came across he timed his pass inside to Dan Howells for the full-back to race over under the sticks for his fourth try in four matches, which White converted.

There followed an exchange of penalties as the half drew to a close to give a half-time score of 16-16.

The Green and Golds started the second half with a bang. Howells collected a kick and his chip and chase allowed the Athletic to mount more pressure resulting in another penalty for White.

Henri Williams and Tom Penry-Ellis were driving the Athletic forward and a diagonal kick by Jake Williams allowed Nick Hinton to pressurise the full-back into a poor clearance.

Captain Sean Williams rose high to claim the line-out and as the Blackwood pack targeted their supposed attackers he just stepped forward and drove clear for a try that White again converted.

During this period coach Dai Williams rang the changes in the pack. Young Iestyn Merriman at hooker and veteran Matthew Hillman at flanker put themselves about and Matthew Norman was prominent in the loose along with Griff Davies, who replaced Penry-Ellis.

Despite pushing a penalty just wide White soon made amends by slotting over his fifth penalty to give the Athletic a comfortable lead going into the last 15 minutes.

Again Blackwood came back and took control of the last phase of the match and although the home team defended with vigour they managed to work substitute centre over for an unconverted try to conclude the scoring.

The final score was 29-21 in favour of the Athletic and the result raised their league position by two places.

ABOVE: Sean Williams makes a burst through the defence.

Josh White's 19 points doubled his season's tally to 38 and he played with more self-assurance than previously.

This week Newbridge are the visitors to Newbridge Fields and Bridgend Athletic will be looking for a repeat performance to try to consolidate a mid-table position.

MD

Bridgend Athletic 2nd XV made it four wins out of four with a comprehensive 66-0 defeat of Brackla, running in 10 tries.

So far this season in the league they top they have 158 points for and 39 against with a favourable try tally of 25 to 5.

Try scorers were Harry Griffiths, Lewis Davies, Liam Griffiths, Andrew Tyler, Dean Greenslade, Robert Davies, Geraint Lang, Josh Evans, Jamie Sidford and Nathan Holman, who became joint leading try scorer with three tries this campaign. Scott Jones and Scott Govan each converted four tries.

AB

ABOVE: Matt Muir battles his way through a tackle. PICTURES BY GLENNSPORTS

SCORPIONS CELEBRATE END OF THE SEASON

Connor Farrer (right) was the big winner at the presentation evening.

SOUTH Wales Scorpions' young hooker Connor Farrer picked up four trophies at South Wales Scorpions' end of season awards night on Saturday.

The 19-year old, who is in line to win his first Welsh cap on Friday, won the holy grail quadruple of Coach's Player of the Year, Players' Player of the Year, Supporters Club Player of the Year and Best Forward.

Scorpions coach Mike Grady said: "I was delighted to have presented these trophies to Connor. He's a great young player, hard-working and has had an outstanding season. I certainly hope he's selected for Wales this Friday against Scotland in Workington."

The awards night was held at the Sports Bar in the Brewery Field in Bridgend and was arguably the most successful in the club's history.

An excellent turn-out of fans, sponsors, players and officials alike, enjoyed the Super League Grand Final live on the big screens where St Helens beat arch rivals Wigan Warriors 14-6.

The awards were presented following the match and meal, and stalwart Ashley Bateman was honoured with trophies from both club and fans for becoming the first Scorpions' player to reach 100 club appearances.

Shaun Owens won Try of the Season, voted for by fans on Facebook and at the awards night, Jordan Sheridan won Best Back while Matt Wilcox claimed the Most Improved Player of the Year.

In a touching end to the presentations, club sponsor and proactive club volunteers Gareth and Julie Laugharne were given vouchers for an overnight package at the Celtic Manor Resort, paid for by the players, for their outstanding contribution to the club throughout 2014.

"We didn't expect this," an emotional Gareth commented. "We do our work because of our love of the club. This wasn't necessary but we're very grateful."

The evening concluded with a question and answer session between fans and club staff as the move to Mountain Ash and preparations for 2015 were discussed.

"It was a fantastic night," added Grady. "I couldn't wish for a better set of players and fans and we can't wait to get going in 2015 where we've got a lot of hard work to do on and off the field to be successful. But it's hard work we're looking forward to.

"Good luck to our seven players Ashley Bateman, Phil Carleton, Paul Emanuelli, Morgan Evans, Connor Farrer, Kyle Scrivens and Jordan Sheridan, in their European Championship campaign with Wales."

IG

Porthcawl RFC battle for hard-earned victory

LOCAL derby matches can throw up any number of scenarios and this one between Cefn Cribwr and Porthcawl RFC turned out to be an overall mediocre match, error strewn and yet with an exciting ending.

The Seaweeds started much the better as skipper Lloyd Long led the way, his forwards ploughing wave after wave into the heart of the Cefn defence from the off. It seemed an early score was on the cards but Jordan Skidmore scuffed his early penalty shot.

Porthcawl lock Richard Hnyda was yellow carded for an alleged body check and his 10 minutes in the bin threatened to hand the momentum to the home side; however despite centre Rob Curl's slick prompting, Cefn couldn't take advantage, and Cefn full-back Adam Lloyd's penalty chance falling short.

The Riders were, however, disrupting an unusually subdued Seaweeds scrum, exerting pressure on the Porthcawl line as the battle became more dour.

With the first half threatening to drift into a scoreless and forgettable oblivion, a moment of magic came as fly half Matthew Owen, in for the injured Jon Phillips, released a superb pass to put centre Jake Thomas through a huge gap for Skidmore to scuttle in at the corner for a try he couldn't improve from touch, and it was 0-5 at the break.

Seaweeds coach Rhys James read the riot act to his charges during the interval, looking for much more concentration on the job in hand, with Cefn having proven to be a hard nut to crack.

Cefn took first blood in the second spell as Lloyd kicked a superb 40 metre penalty for 3-5 before Porthcawl's Gareth Davies ended up in the bin for a transgression at a ruck, with the returning No.8 Tom Butcher entering the fray for his first match this campaign for the injured Mattie Davies, who had been the stand-out figure upfront for Porthcawl.

When Adam Lloyd kicked his second penalty to put Cefn 6-5 ahead, and the match proving to be no more a spectacle than it had been in the first half, the pressure was all on Porthcawl to secure their second win of the season.

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Late show sees Pencoed emerge from away trip with the win

PENCOED left Harlequin Road a mightily relieved camp having somehow preserved their unbeaten opening to the season, grabbing a 15-13 win over Aberavon Harlequins.

No one could possibly have predicted the course of the match when Pencoed scored in the opening minute, their supporters possibly thinking they were on their way to another comfortable victory.

A 20 metre rolling maul from the home 22 saw scrum half Kyle Barrett feed blindside wing Aaron Songhurst who crossed in the corner. Quins full back Ryan Pugh then opened his sides account with a 10th minute penalty goal.

Pencoed returned to the attack and sustained pressure from the pack at the set piece got its reward with a penalty try, Marc Davies adding the extras, and Pencoed led by 12 points to 3 and were looking comfortable.

The Quins then picked up a yellow card and ironically this triggered off a home fightback. Pencoed called a lineout in prime position metres from the home line, only to lose the throw and possible scoring opportunity against the depleted home side; on reflection their dominant scrum at this stage may have been the better option.

From the defensive lineout the home side took play to the halfway line and Pencoed were made to pay when willowy home centre Calvin Wellington showed the evasive running skills which sees him St Helens-bound to cross from 40 metres-plus for a fine individual try.

Full back Pugh converted and now it was game on at 10-12, when Pencoed could have led 3-19. Pugh added a penalty goal and the home side had scored 10 points while down to 14 men to lead 13-12 at the interval.

Pencoed on this occasion were unable to play with any continuity, their free flowing game which has been so evident in their opening games clearly not apparent, and unforced errors littered their game.

Going into the last quarter play was now evenly balanced with the home side sensing a possible upset to the form book. Davies then eased the Pencoed support nerves with a penalty goal for his side to lead 13-15 going into the final tense minutes.

Approaching the final whistle Pencoed were penalised for throwing the ball out of play, and there was more drama to come, home full back Pugh missing the point blank range penalty goal, before sinking to the ground in distress at not having taken the gilt edged opportunity to win the game for his side.

Further pain was inflicted on the Quins when a Pencoed player had not been spotted by the match official charging the penalty, when surely a retake would not have been missed!

In a below-par Pencoed performance centre Lloyd Ryland stood out with a number of clean breaks to take the man of the match award, and the team will take the win away from home to maintain their position as Division 2 West Central leaders as a positive, but will no doubt reflect on their performance with a view to applying themselves somewhat better at home on Saturday to Taibach, 2.30pm kick off.

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